MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

28 FEBRUARY 1983

Algerian-Moroccan Relations

The Algerian Foreign Ministry and the Moroccan Ministry of State for Foreign Affairs confirmed that Algeria's President Chadli Bendjedid met with Morocco's King Hassan II on the Algerian-Moroccan border on 26 February, APS and Rabat radio reported on 27 February. An Algerian Foreign Ministry spokesman "reasserted that there are no differences" between Algeria and Morocco on the Saharan question, which is an issue concerning the "liquidation of colonialism," APS added. He reiterated Algeria's "readiness" to find a solution that "conforms with the established right of the Saharan people to self-determination and independence." According to Rabat radio, the talks covered issues of mutual concern, particularly the normalization of bilateral relations. Regarding the Saharan issue, the radio noted that King Hassan reiterated Morocco's adherence to OAU summit resolutions and his desire to implement them "as soon as possible."

On 27 February Riyadh radio commented that the "extraordinary" meeting had not come about by mere chance but was "carefully and meticulously prepared" a few months ago.

Lebanon

Presidential envoy Philip Habib held talks in Jerusalem with Israeli Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche, Jerusalem television reported on 27 February. Beirut radio said Habib would communicate Lebanon's "final stand" on those matters he discussed earlier with Lebanese leaders in Beirut. An official Lebanese source cited by the radio revealed that the forthcoming round of Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. talks at Khaldah will be held on 1 March.

Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan stressed in an interview with the weekly MONDAY MORNING that Lebanon is willing to establish "any security arrangements that rule out an Israeli presence in the south, particularly any military presence," Beirut radio reported. Earlier, Major Sa'd Haddad told AFP that while his troops will be integrated into the Lebanese Army, he will not personally rejoin the Army. He said he "will not be an obstacle" and will give up his military career when Lebanon is liberated, unified, and independent.

Israel

During the 37 February Cabinet session, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said Israel has no information about Jordanian King Husayn's "imminent integration" into the peace process but would welcome this if "he does not present any preconditions," Jerusalem radio reported. Defense Minister Moshe Arens said at the session that the coming months will be "decisive" for Israeli-U.S. relations, the radio added. In a 25 February interview with Jerusalem television, Arens stated that President Reagan's remark on a "homeland" for the Palestinians "worries" him even though he realizes that Reagan did not make his remark in a written statement but at a meeting with journalists.

In another development five bedouin were killed and four were injured when their vehicles ran over mines south of Kibbutz Ze'elim on 25 February, Jerusalem television reported. On 28 February Jerusalem radio announced that a special team is investigating recent incidents in Hebron during which shots were fired at the homes of local inhabitants and a bomb was planted near a mosque. The radio added that the situation is "very tense."

PLO Affairs

The USSR reaffirmed its solidarity with the Palestinian people's just struggle led by their sole and legitimate representative, the PLO, KUNA reported on 25 February citing a congratulatory cable from the Soviet leadership to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on his reelection to that post. Later, 'Arafat arrived in Sudan to participate in the Sudanese Socialist Union (SSU) congress and met with President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri on 27 February, according to SUNA. Addressing the SSU congress, the PLO leader stressed his conviction that Sudan will "meet the responsibility" of removing the Zionist threat from Africa, SUNA noted.

Commenting on President Reagan's use of the term "homeland" for the Palestinians, Baghdad voice of PLO radio asserted that the United States pays the Arabs "lipservice" and offers "empty promises" while it gives Israel "everything." The radio added that Israel may even "officially announce" the annexation of the West Bank and Gaza in response to Reagan's "new hints."

Arab-UK Relations

Moroccan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs M'hamed Boucetta announced that the Arab seven-member committee will visit London in mid-March, MAP reported on 25 February citing Boucetta's remarks to the London paper ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT. The minister added that the delegation's chairman is "working toward the goal" of representation for the Palestinian people during the London visit.

Libya

The Libyans "do not accept any American intrusion designed to affect their relations with their Arab brothers," declared a 26 February Foreign Liaison Bureau statement carried by JANA. Commenting on the "continued allegations and fabrications" against Libya by Secretary of State Shultz, the statement affirmed that neither U.S. military provocations nor remarks by Shultz will scare the Libyan people.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iranian fighter planes shot down an Iraqi aircraft in the Wal Fajr operational zone, an Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio on 27 February claimed. Meanwhile, Iraqi fighter planes carried out air strikes against "important' Iranian military targets inside Iran and returned safely to base, according to an Iraqi military communique braodcast by Baghdad radio.

In a Friday sermon broadcast by Tehran radio on 25 February, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that the Wal Fajr operation has only just begun and that to avoid further losses Iranian troops must be pulled back to await further orders. The Majlis speaker declared that military security reasons have prevented Iran from propagandizing future moves. Adding that Iran's aim is to rid the region of "U.S. gendarmes," Hashemi-Rafsanjani called on the nonaligned countries not to protect Iraqi President Saddam Husayn during the nonaligned summit in New Delhi.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East and Africa

Vol V No 040 *28 February 1983*

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

'Arafat To Request Convening of Minisummit [Baghdad Voice of PLO] A 1
KUNA: PLO Officials Meet USSR Envoy in Tunis A 1
As-Sartawi on Resignation From PNC, Other Topics [Paris LE MATIN 22 Feb] A 1
Praises Jordan-PLO Relations [Amman] A 3
Baghdad PLO Radio on Reagan 'Homeland' Statement A 4

OPEC AFFAIRS

Kuwait, Other Ministers Discuss Prices in Paris [KUNA] B 1

ARABIAN PENINSULA

SAUDI ARABIA

'Source' Denies Coup Attempt in Saudi Arabia [AL-KHALIJ 26 Feb] C 1

UAE

Defense Ministry Official on Arms Purchases C 1

PDRY

PDRY-Nicaraguan Joint Communique Issued C 1
Delegation Departs C 3

EGYPT

Foreign Ministry Responds to PNC Statement D 1
Explanation of Statement Awaited D 1
'Ali Chairs Meeting on Nonaligned Conference D 1
Ghali Discusses Conference D 2
Delegation Leaves for Conference D 3
Ghali Leaves for Rome Enroute to New Delhi D 3
Tripartite Talks on Tabah To Convene 2 Mar D 3
'Ali Says Middle East in 'Decisive Phase' D 3

IRAQ

Saddam Husayn Interviewed on Nonaligned Summit [TANJUG] E 1
Iranian Battle Losses Reported 24-27 Feb E 2
Communique No 1,011 E 2
Communique No 1,012 E 3
Communique No 1,013 E 3
Polish Deputy Chairman Arrives on Official Visit E 4
Indian Deputy Foreign Minister Leaves Baghdad E 4

JORDAN

Al-Qasim on Jordanian-Palestinian Relations ['UKAZ 16 Feb] F 1
Papers Comment on Reagan Statements on Israel F 1
Indian Vice President Arrives 27 February F 3
Iraqi Official Leaves Amman for Riyadh 27 Feb F 3

LEBANON

Habib Going to Israel With 'Maximum' Offers G 1
'Sources' Expect Withdrawal To Begin Soon G 1
Salim on Multinational Force, Negotiations G 1
[Radio Free Lebanon]
Al-Wazzan Comments on Withdrawal Efforts G 2
AFP Interviews Haddad on Rejoining Army G 3
Israel's Kimche on Conditions for Agreement G 4
[Radio Free Lebanon]
Explosion Occurs in Beirut Suburb 27 Feb G 4

SYRIA

Radio on Withdrawals, Habib's Visit to Damascus [Radio Monte Carlo] H 1
Damascus Commentary on Arens' Threats to Syria H 2
Assembly Speaker Receives UK Labor Party MP's H 2
Delegation Departs H 3
Khaddam Confers With UK's Lord Carrington H 3
Al-Asad Meets Lord Carrington H 3
AL-BA'TH Warns Against 'Befriending' U.S. [21 Feb] H 4

ISRAEL

Habib Arrives 27 Feb, To Meet Kimche, Shamir I 1
Brings Draft Plan I 1
Sources on Current Habib Mission I 1
Cabinet Meets, Views Husayn; Arens Participates I 2
More on Arens, Shamir Remarks I 2
Sharir on Cabinet Session I 4
Begin on Progress in Lebanon Talks to Knesset I 4
Syria Expected to Stay in Lebanon I 6
[THE JERUSALEM POST 25 Feb]
Soviet SAM-5 Sites in Syria 'Operational' I 7
[THE JERUSALEM POST 27 Feb]
'Secret' Syrian-Jordanian Contacts Reported I 7
Reagan Proposal Believed Aimed at Soviets [DAVAR 25 Feb] I 7
Arens Comments on Assuming Defense Portfolio I 8
Arens Clarifies Statement on Syrian Threat I 9

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

Benjedid, King Hassan Hold Talks at Border Q 1
APS Reports 26 Feb Meeting Q 1

LIBYA

Foreign Liaison Bureau Rejects Schultz' 'Lies' Q 1
Leader Receives Solidarity Cable From Ethiopia Q 2
'Sudanese Party Sources' Report Uprising in South Q 2

MOROCCO

Hassan Returns From Meeting With Bendjedid Q 3
Boucetta on PLO Presence in Arab Delegations Q 3

SUDAN

Numayri Addresses SSU Congress 26 Feb Q 4
President Numayri Receives 'Arafat 27 Feb Q 5
'Arafat Addresses SSU Congress Q 5
SUNA Reports Anti-Libyan Press Conference Q 5

TUNISIA

Bourguiba Receives 'Arafat, Khalaf, Qaddumi Q 6
Leftist Freed; Islamic Weekly Confiscated Q 7

WESTERN SAHARA

Spokesman Comments on Hassan-Bendjedid Talks Q 7

EAST AFRICA

ETHIOPIA

20,000 Reportedly Deployed Against Eritreans [Cairo] R 1
Eritrean Front: 280 Ethiopians Killed R 1
[Voice of the Broad Masses]
More on Battle Successes R 1
[Voice of the Broad Masses]

SOMALIA

Statement on U.S., Soviet Bases in Horn R 2

WEST AFRICA

GHANA

Jerry Rawlings 24 Feb Address to Nation T 1

LIBERIA

Doe To Meet Stevens, Toure in Conakry 28 Feb T 5

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Angola-RSA Talks Produce No 'Positive Results' [AFP] U 1
Angolan Minister Comments [Luanda] U 1

ANGOLA

Communique on People's Assembly Session U 3
SWAPO Communique Claims Successes Against RSA U 3

NAMIBIA

SWAPO Guerrillas Enter Country From Angola U 4

SOUTH AFRICA

Hundreds Reported Arrested at Cape Squatter Camp U 5

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Frees 18 Held on Suspicion of Coup Plot U 5

ZIMBABWE

Widespread Killing Reported in Matabeleland U 5
Official: Situation 'Distorted' U 7
Mugabe: Nkomo Aligned With South Africa U 8
DPRK To Train Militia U 8
Zimbabwean Troops in Mozambique [Johannesburg] U 9
Families of Two Kidnapped Tourists Contacted U 9

'ARAFAT TO REQUEST CONVENING OF MINISUMMIT

JN251735 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Text] It was announced in Rabat today that Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] will visit Morocco next week to brief Moroccan King Hassan II on the resolutions of the recent Palestine National Council [PNC] session. Reports say that Abu 'Ammar will request the Moroccan King, in his capacity as chairman of the Arab seven-member committee, to convene an Arab minisummit on the level of this committee to discuss future Arab political moves.

Upon his return to Tunis, 'Arafat met with Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi. Brother Abu 'Ammar briefed the Tunisian president on the PNC resolutions and discussed the latest Palestinian developments on all levels.

KUNA: PLO OFFICIALS MEET USSR ENVOY IN TUNIS

LD251831 Kuwait KUNA in English 1711 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Text] Tunis, Feb 25 (KUNA) -- PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat yesterday received the Soviet ambassador in Tunis, WAFA reported Friday. The meeting was attended by P.L.O. Political Department head Abu al-Lutf (Qaddumi), P.L.O. Executive Committee member Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] and Fatah Central Committee member Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf]. At the meeting there was a discussion on current developments in the Middle East region, particularly those related to the Palestinian question, the agency said.

Meanwhile, Chairman 'Arafat has received a cable of congratulation from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet council of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the occasion of his re-election as chairman of the P.L.O. Executive Committee. The cable affirmed the Soviet people's solidarity with the Palestinian people's just struggle under the leadership of the P.L.O., its sole legitimate representative. The cable praised the P.L.O.'s reputation in the world, and wished Chairman 'Arafat and the Executive Committee further successes for the achievement of the Palestinian people's rights and the establishment of a just peace in the Middle East.

AS-SARTAWI ON RESIGNATION FROM PNC, OTHER TOPICS

PM261215 Paris LE MATIN in French 22 Feb 83 p 12

[Interview with PLO member 'Isam as-Sartawi by Jacques de Vernisy -- date and place not given]

[Text] LE MATIN: 'Isam as-Sartawi, why did you resign from the PNC?

'Isam as-Sartawi: My resignation from the PNC was inevitable; I was prevented from expressing my viewpoint during the plenary session.

I have been a PNC member since 1968 and I did not regard it as a reward but instead as involving duties. It is always possible to find good reason to limit some speakers' right to express their views. It is true the PNC has been expanded considerably since its creation and it is not a catastrophe if some of its 400 members are unable to express their views because of lack of time.

However, there is reason to wonder whether the rules governing that assembly's operation should not be amended.

But, as far as I am concerned and without giving myself exaggerated importance, it was absolutely imperative that my viewpoint be heard because I am not an entirely ordinary delegate and could not be left out.

LE MATIN: Do you think you were silenced by a deliberate maneuver?

'Isam as-Sartawi: PNC Chairman Khalid al-Fahum was frightened by the delicate nature of the remarks I was going to make and, moreover, he made a grave mistake because, instead of raising these questions within the council, I am forced to discuss them publicly with you in LE MATIN, and that is what I desperately wanted to avoid.

But I am sure that the Palestinian masses are behind me.

LE MATIN: What did you have to say that was so serious?

'Isam as-Sartawi: I intended to draw attention to problems deliberately left in obscurity by some of the main speakers, especially those who represent the Palestinian organizations other than Fatah, to which I belong. More specifically, I wanted to contradict their unanimous but strange idea that what happened in Lebanon was a great victory for our people. I wanted to make the PNC realize that we have to draw a distinction between heroism and victory.

What happened in Lebanon was a great defeat. Despite the heroism which we showed in Beirut, I wanted to demand that the council set up a commission of inquiry to show what responsibility we bore in allowing the war to take place in Lebanon in the first place. I also wanted to raise the problem of the PLO's internal functioning in the context of Palestinian national unity.

LE MATIN: Do you criticize the behavior of some PLO organizations?

'Isam as-Sartawi: I wanted to ask the council how five PLO groups were able to go to Tripoli, in violation of Palestinian procedures and unity, to discuss Palestine's future and by what right they allowed the Libyans to take part in those discussions. How can some movements in our organization form part of the government majority and at the same time act as opponents? By what logic could they back some proposals made by Yasir 'Arafat at the Fes summit only to start to criticize them now? I would also have liked to hear what the PLO Executive Committee had to say about the crimes committed by Abu Nidal in Europe. What did the PLO do after Abu Nidal's murder in Europe? What did the PLO do after Abu Nidal's murder of Na'im Khadir, its ambassador to Brussels? In particular I would have asked the two PLO organizations linked with some Arab governments which are giving asylum to Abu Nidal whether they too did not feel responsible for Na'im Khadir's death. I would have liked to question the PLO leadership about all these groups which are doing great harm to the Arab peoples' reputation.

LE MATIN: Would you have advocated PNC recognition of Israel by the PLO?

'Isam as-Sartawi: That was the main question which I wanted to raise. I wanted to make the council understand that there is a major inconsistency between its Charter and its political resolutions -- an inconsistency which invalidates either the Charter or the resolutions. And unless the Charter is officially amended, the constitutional ground on which we operate disappears. The council must give a responsible verdict on this problem of the Charter.

Second, I would like to ask the council whether it in fact realized that, during its last session in Damascus in 1981, it adopted a resolution recognizing Israel (by stating that it supported the Brezhnev plan) and whether the PLO leadership could not really use that resolution to go to the United States and West Europe and say: "in exchange for this recognition of Israel, recognize the PLO."

LE MATIN: Does your position have support?

'Isam as-Sartawi: A very large number of Palestinians share my view, and they say so publicly. These people are not only PLO members but also and especially many inhabitants of the occupied territories.

LE MATIN: But is Yasir 'Arafat strong enough to impose this policy which you uphold?

'Isam as-Sartawi: Abu 'Ammar ('Arafat) is the indisputed leader of the PLO and all Palestinians. His policy is supported by the vast majority and it is from them that he draws his strength. Difficulties arise when those who are shouting loudest in the extremist minority of the Palestinians use their relations with some Arab states to exercise a greater influence than they really have. That makes any rational progress more difficult.

LE MATIN: Are you going to pursue your contacts with the Israeli "doves?"

'Isam as-Sartawi: Of course. Moreover, the PNC was very positive on that point and it was certainly not on that question that I resigned. Israeli journalist Amnon Kapeliouk was in Algiers. This progressive was the star of the council meeting to such an extent that he was completely monopolized (and I virtually never saw him) by the very people who, a few months ago, wanted to kill me because of the contacts I had with him. That is a personal victory for me but especially a historic victory for the Palestinians.

LE MATIN: Some people oppose your moderate line, stating that Reagan will never really be able to secure concessions from Israel in Lebanon or in the occupied territories.

'Isam as-Sartawi: It is not true that Reagan cannot exert pressure on Israel. He can do so if he wishes. But it is unrealistic to think that Reagan or the United States controls anything. After all, Israel is an independent state; it is not a U.S. colony. But an Israeli government which did not take account of U.S. wishes would be mad.

LE MATIN: So are you optimistic or pessimistic following the PNC meeting?

'Isam as-Sartawi: It really is a great pity that I was unable to express my view. The PNC only meets every 2 years and it would have been vital to use this meeting to discuss all the most delicate but most important problems. Time is not on our side; we need rapid progress.

Praises Jordan-PLO Relations

JN251402 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Text] Dr 'Isam as-Sartawi, political adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, has asserted that the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue and the continuous coordination between Jordan and the PLO are necessitated by the current situation to confront the Israeli threats aimed at emptying the occupied Arab territories of their inhabitants and annexing them to Israel forever, as well as Israel's aim to expand by force at the expense of neighboring countries. In a statement to the PETRA correspondent in Paris, As-Sartawi said that the distinctive relations between Jordan and Palestine are ancient and deep-rooted, that the two peoples have family ties and a common cultural heritage. These relations should be placed on the strongest possible basis, As-Sartawi added.

Dr as-Sartawi also said that during the current serious phase in Arab history there is no place for verbal outbiddings and bombastic statements which are utterly useless. He added that we need serious, enlightened work, affirming that Jordanian-Palestinian cordination is the best phenomenon in the Arab region at this stage.

'Arafat's political adviser concluded his statement by saying: In all Arab moves Palestinian decisionmaking should be the prerogative of the PLO without any Arab pressure, because we reject any interference in our internal affairs.

BAGHDAD PLO RADIO ON REAGAN 'HOMELAND' STATEMENT

JN251850 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Feb 83

[From "Events of the Week" program]

[Text] It is necessary for the Palestinians to have some sort of a homeland -- this remark was uttered by President Ronald Reagan while meeting with a number of eminent journalists in Washington yesterday. With extreme shyness, the U.S. President for the first time uttered the word "homeland" for the Palestinians, adding that this should not necessarily imply the establishment of a Palestinian state.

President Reagan is repeating his plan which came to be known as Reagan's peace plan and which he outlined last September. This plan was rejected by the government of the Zionist terrorists in occupied Palestine. The new version of the Reagan plan, in which he said that it was necessary for the Palestinians to have some sort of a homeland, has also been rejected by the Begin government. A number of Zionist officials led by Shamir have described the Reagan statement as a deviation from the Camp David agreements, which did not include the term "homeland for the Palestinians." They said this was no coincidence. Shamir reiterated his government's stand on all peace formulas in the region, saying that the Camp David agreements are the reasonable framework to realize peace, as he put it. The new Israeli defense minister, Moshe Arens, commented on Reagan's statement: The Palestinian homeland and state exist; they are Jordan.

When we say that the U.S. Administration pays lipservice to the Arab nation and that the Palestinian cause and issues are only promises to them, we are perfectly right. It is also reasonable to say that whenever a U.S. statement is issued on a homeland for the Palestinians, Israle implements new plans to devour new Palestinian land. It seems as though there is perfect Israeli-U.S. agreement on these issues. Following the Reagan plan and its rejection by Israel, the Palestinian territory was exposed to an unprecedented wave of Israeli settlements.

Now that Israle has rejected the recent statement by Reagan, what is Israel hiding in the form of a practical answer to Reagan? Israel is practically annexing the West Bank and Gaza through its daily settlement plans. It may even officially announce the annexation of these territories in response to Reagan's new hints. We say this because we have experience in the trends of U.S. policy in the region, which renders absolute support for Israel. How can the Zionist terrorist gangs build new settlements without U.S. funds when they themselves face difficult economic circumstances as President Reagan himself said? Without U.S. weapons, how could Israel occupy Lebanon and continue its occupation of Palestinian territory?

The United States gives the Arabs lipservice and empty promises while giving Israel everything. It seems as though Israel imposes a systematic tax on U.S. Administration officials who feed Israel with funds collected from the U.S. taxpayer. The United States guarantees peace to Israel so that it can expand, occupy new territories, and claim that Jordan is the homeland for the Palestinians. In short, the U.S. Administration needs the necessary courage to curb Israeli expansion and follies in the region. Had the U.S. Administration been serious in expounding its shy proposals, the situation would be different.

KUWAITI, OTHER MINISTERS DISCUSS PRICES IN PARIS

LD?51215 Kuwait KUNA in English 1104 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Text] Paris, Feb 25 (KUNA) -- Oil ministers from Kuwait, Algeria, Venezuela and Mexico held a meeting here, at the Kuwaiti Embassy, Thursday night.

The Kuwaiti oil minister, 'Ali al-Khalifa as-Sabah, held a first meeting with his Mexican counterpart Francisco Labastida, and a larger session followed including oil ministers of Algeria and Venezuela, Belkacem Nabi and Calderon Berti.

The four ministers' meeting took place late Thursday night, at the Kuwaiti Embassy, and was attended by 'Isa al-Hamad, Kuwaiti ambassador to France.

No declaration was made after the nearly two hour talks, but the meeting was aimed at preparing an eventual OPEC countries summit in the very near future in order to find a compromise plan to avoid a collapse in world oil prices.

Oil ministers of Mexico and Venezuela had "informal talks" Thursday in the French capital, and the Venezuelan minister is due to leave here today for Riyadh for consultation with the Saudi oil minister, Shaykh Zaki Yamani, over the four OPEC countries' -- Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia -- decision to cut the OPEC reference price from 34 dollars to 30 following Britain, Nigeria and Norway move last week-end to cut their crude price by 10 to 15.5 percent.

SAUDI ARABIA

'SOURCE' DENIES COUP ATTEMPT IN SAUDI ARABIA

GF261342 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 26 Feb 83 pp 1, 13

[Report from Riyadh]

[Text] In a telephone conversation with AL-KHALIJ last night, a responsible Saudi source ridiculed a report carried by THE DAILY TELEGRAPH about the discovery of a coup plot in Saudi Arabia. The source, who asked that his name not be disclosed, said: We in Saudi Arabia do not pay any attention to such reports. It is not strange that the press of the West propagates such reports against Saudi Arabia.

He affirmed that Saudi Arabia has confidence in itself and its leadership and that Saudi Arabia shall not stoop to reply to such ridiculous things. The AP had quoted the British paper, THE DAILY TELEGRAPH, as saying that the Saudi authorities recently arrested hundreds of persons who had tried to organize a coup in Saudi Arabia similar to that in Iran.

UAE

DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIAL ON ARMS PURCHASES

GF271324 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0815 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] Dubayy, 27 Feb (WAKH) -- Defense Ministry Under Secretary Colonel Shaykh Muhammad ibn 'Ubayd al-Maktum stressed that his country follows a policy of diversification of weapons sources and that the UAE imports weapons from most of the arms-exporting countries.

In a statement to the UAE paper AL-BAYAN, Col al-Maktum indicated that his country continues to seek sophisticated weapons for its armed forces in order to build up its army and to make it one of the largest armies in the region. He pointed out that contracts had been signed to purchase a group of Hawk planes in order to add them to the UAE Air Force. He added that the first group of three planes will arrive in late March.

PDRY

PDRY-NICARAGUAN JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED

GF251633 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Feb 83

["Text" of joint Nicaraguan-PDRY communique issued on 25 February following the visit to Aden of Miguel d'Esoto, member of the Sandinist National Liberation Front and Nicaraguan foreign affairs minister]

[Text] At an invitation from Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali, member of the YSP Central Committee and foreign affairs minister, Comrade Miguel d'Escoto, member of the Sandinist National Liberation Front and Nicaraguan foreign affairs minister, and (?a number of officials) made an official visit to the PDRY [words indistinct].

During this visit, the delegation met with Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Comrade Miguel d'Escoto conveyed a verbal message from Daniel Ortega Saavedra, member of the command of the Sandinist National Liberation Front and coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction.

With friendship and understanding, the Nicaraguan delegation held talks with the PDRY delegation. The PDRY side was led by Brother Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali, minister of foreign affairs, and the Nicaraguan delegation was led by Comrade Miguel d'Escoto, minister of foreign affairs. During the talks, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations and means of developing and strengthening them. The talks also covered issues of mutual interest.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction over the level of bilateral relations and valued the outcome of the visit which Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers, made to Nicaragua in February, 1982 and the talks which he held with the Nicaraguan revolutionary leadership.

During the talks, the two sides acquainted each other with the social, economic, and cultural changes in their two countries. They expressed complete satisfaction over the changes and the developments that are serving the progress of their peoples.

In viewing the international situation, the two sides emphasized the need for struggle for the sake of international peace and detente, improved cooperation, and peaceful coexistence among the countries of various social systems. They expressed their concern over the escalation of international tension due to the U.S. imperialist policy of shaking international stability and security and due to continued interference in other countries' internal affairs.

The two sides expressed their worry over the explosive situation in the Middle East resulting from Israel's expansionist aggressive policy. They condemned the Israeli occupation of Lebanese territory and the brutal massacres the Israeli forces committed in the camps of Sabra and Shatila. They called for the withdrawal of Israeli forces and for respect for the sovereignty, independence, and unity of the Lebanese territory. They expressed the firm conviction that a just and durable peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved without a comprehensive just solution of the Palestinian issue based on complete Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied since 1967, and the guarantee of the Arab Palestinian people's rights, including their right to establish their independent state. They reiterated their total support for the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. They noted that the Palestinian revolution's unity is the cornerstone in the Palestinian people's common struggle to achieve these rights.

In reviewing the situation on the African Continent, the two sides expressed their concern over the continued aggression by the racist regime in South Africa against the Frontline countries, particularly Angola and Mozambique, and the continued illegitimate occupation of Namibia by the regime in Pretoria. They called for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 435 of 1978 on Namibia and other [word indistinct] resolutions. The two sides rejected the attempts by U.S. imperialism and the racist regime in Pretoria to link Namibia's independence with the withdrawal of the Cuban forces from Angola and considered this an interference in Angola's internal affairs. The two sides expressed their support for the just struggle being waged by the Namibian people, led by their sole and legitimate representative, SWAPO, and expressed their solidarity with the popular struggle (?in South Africa) under the (?African National Congress).

In analyzing the situation in Latin America, the two sides stressed that the main danger being posed to the peace in Latin America is represented in the U.S. imperialist threats and intervention against popular revolutionaries, including the national government in Nicaragua. They denounced the U.S. Adminitration's interference in the internal affairs of the region's countries and peoples. The two sides expressed their support for the struggle of the Latin American people, particularly the people of Central America, to achieve their social independence and progress. They also condemned the campaigns of suppression and repression being waged by the dictatorial regimes in the region against their peoples in violation of the international declaration of human rights. In this regard, the two sides reaffirmed their support for the fifth emergency ministerial meeting of the Nonaligned Coordinating Bureau which was held in Managua from 10 to 14 January on the conflict in Central America and the Carribbean. The two sides strongly condemned Israel's interferrence in Latin America's and Central America's internal affairs, particularly the agreements concluded recently between the Zionist entity and some regimes in Central America.

The two sides discussed the current preparations for the Seventh Nonaligned Summit. They valued the role the movement plays in enhancing world peace and security and its contribution to the search for (?a new economic system) [words indistinct] to preserve its [word indistinct] principles against opposing imperialism, neocolonialism, racism, and [word indistinct]. They expressed confidence that the seventh summit will issue positive and constructive resolutions [words indistinct] (?that would reflect the people's desire) for world security and stability.

Delegation Departs

GF251318 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Text] The Nicaraguan delegation led by Comrade Miguel d'Escoto, member of the Sandinist National Liberation Front and minister of foriegn affairs, left Aden this morning after a 5-day official visit to the PDRY in response to an invitation from Brother Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali, member of the Central Commitee and foreign affairs minister.

During this visit, the Nicaraguan delegation held meetings and talks with PDRY party and government officials which aimed at strengthening and deepening relations between Nicaragua and the PDRY.

In a statement to ANA before departing, Comrade d'Escoto described his visit to our country as historical and very important. He expressed confidence that this visit will deepen relations between the two (?friendly countries. He added: We consider the PDRY a friendly country and we [words indistinct] the Nicaraguan delegation had the great honor of being received by Comrade 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Comrade Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali, member of the Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs.

Concluding his statement, the leader of the delegation expressed his admiration for and appreciation of the achievements made in the PDRY. He expressed confidence that the achievements of the two friendly peoples will be enhanced.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali, member of the Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs, and a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

FOREIGN MINISTRY RESPONDS TO PNC STATEMENT

NC242001 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Text] Commenting on what has been reported by news agencies regarding the Palestine National Council [PNC] statement issued in Algiers on 22 February on the PLO's determination of its relations with Egypt on the basis of the renunciation of what the statement called the "Camp David policy," the Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman made the following statement:

1. What was in the statement regarding Egypt does not serve in any way the objectives of the Palestinian action and if this stance proves to be true, it will be considered as a negative retreat from the positive cooperation which took place recently [between Egypt and PLO] and was repeatedly appreciated by the PLO. In this regard, it is sufficient to recall Egypt's speedy response to the PLO's call during its recent crisis in Lebanon together with the mutual coordination which has been conducted daily for several months, a period during which Egypt and its leadership received tens of messages from the PLO's leadership in which it did not refer to Camp David in one way or another.

2. Egypt's support to the PLO during that period was due to Egypt's profound faith in the Palestinian people's issue, its continued sacrifices, and undeniable historic stand; Egypt, while giving the PLO the free choice of its course together with its results and responsibilities, will not renounce its stance toward supporting the fraternal Palestinian people and defending their national interests and their confirmed right to self-determination.

3. The statement's reference to what it called "the national, democratic, and popular forces in Egypt" is tantamount to a disregard of all the sacrifices and honorable stands adopted by all the Egyptian people regarding their national and patriotic responsibilities. It also disregards the rallying of all Egyptian political trends around the national and pan-Arab events which govern Egypt's foreign policy in this fateful phase of national action.

Explanation of Statement Awaited

NC252145 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2105 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA) -- The Cairo newspaper AL-AHRAM says in its edition tomorrow, Saturday, that Egypt is waiting for a PLO explanation of, and comment on, the paragraphs that were contained in the concluding statement that was issued by the PNC -- paragraphs that Egypt considered as an act disregarding the stances taken and sacrifices made by Egypt to back the Palestinian people's rights.

The paper notes that Egypt -- the government and people, including those labeled by the PLO as patriotic and progressive forces -- stands alongside the justness of the Palestinian cause. Furthermore, the paper points out, Egypt does not condone a contrasting of one group's attitudes to another group's stances, particularly in that the martyrs who have fallen in defense of the cause and the billions that have been spend by this people have been offered by all Egyptians without exception.

'ALI CHAIRS MEETING ON NONALIGNED CONFERENCE

NC262042 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1945 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Text] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali tonight chaired a meeting with the Egyptian delegation to the nonaligned foreign ministers' conference due to begin the New Delhi Thursday to prepare for the nonaligned summit which will also convene there from 7-11 March.

The discussion at the meeting dealt with studying the report which was prepared by the Foreign Ministry experts on nonalignment concerning the draft final statement of the nonaligned summit conference which has been drawn up by India in its capacity as the host state.

An agreement was reached at the meeting on the remarks, amendments, and proposals which Egypt will present to the conference while debating the final statement. These stem from Egypt's stance based on avoiding the points that may stir up differences within the conference, safeguarding Arab interests and seeking that the conference's recommendations, particularly in relation to the Middle East situation and the Palestine question, be passed in a way that safeguards the Arab and Egyptian interests.

The ideas which the Egyptian delegation will present to the conference are also based on the necessity of preserving the independence of the Nonaligned Movement and its undertaking within the framework of the United Nations regarding its responsibility in preserving world peace and security.

The Egyptian side will center at the nonaligned conference on the questions relating to development, the world economic situation, and the need for promoting international cooperation in this respect and on equal dialogue between the North and South for a new world economic and information system.

It is known that Kamal Hasan 'Ali, who will lead the Egyptian delegation to the ministerial council, will leave Cairo for New Delhi Thursday. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali will leave for New Delhi 1 day ahead of 'Ali. The Egyptian delegation's experts will leave during the next 2 days. Ambassadors 'Imran ash-Shafi'i and Sa'd Khalil, assistants to the foreign minister, and Ambassador Sayyid Abu Zayd, the director of the foreign minister's office, are due to leave Cairo for New Delhi tomorrow, Sunday.

Ghali Discusses Conference

NC251419 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Text] A plenary meeting will be held at the Foreign Ministry tomorrow to be attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali, and members of the Egyptian delegation to the nonaligned conference, which begins its meetings at the foreign ministers' level this coming Friday. The discussions at the Foreign Ministry meeting will deal with the main questions before the nonaligned conference and with defining the Egyptian stand on them. Dr Ghali made a statement saying: The forthcoming nonaligned conference is being held at a time when the cold war has intensified in the world, thus threatening world peace. The nonaligned states should carry out their role in easing the acute world tension. He added: Egypt has held several contacts with many states to ensure the success of the nonaligned summit conference and achieve a stable world peace.

Dr Ghali said: Foremost among the questions which the nonaligned summit conference will be an opportunity for holding consultations among the African heads of states participating in the conference to discuss the problems facing the OAU so it can perform its role in supporting African cooperation and in resolving African conflicts within an African framework.

Delegation Leaves for Conference

NC270752 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0710 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] Cairo, 27 Feb (MENA) -- Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador ash-Shari'i and the accompanying delegation have left Cairo for New Delhi to attend the nonaligned foreign ministers conference to be held there from 1 through 4 March.

Before leaving, Ambassador ash-Shari'i said that the conference will deal with the draft political and economic statement of the summit conference, which begins its activities on 7 March, with a view to projecting the Egyptian view on the draft statement. The conference will also discuss applications by a number of states to join the Nonaligned Movement.

GHALI LEAVES FOR ROME ENROUTE TO NEW DELHI

NC280727 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali left Cairo for Rome this morning on a 1-day visit for talks with the Italian foreign minister on recent developments in the Middle East, Europe's efforts in promoting the peace efforts and means of strengthening bilateral relations in the various fields. During his stay in Rome Dr Ghali will also meet with the Spanish foreign minister to review international and African issues and bilateral relations. Dr Ghali will then leave for New Delhi to attend the meeting of the nonaligned states' foreign ministers which will begin on Thursday.

In a statement before his departure, Dr Ghali said the nonaligned states' foreign ministers will discuss international topics, above all the developments in the Middle East, the Palestinian issue, Namibia's independence, and the Kampuchean problem. They will also discuss means of strengthening economic relations among the nonaligned states. He said Egypt will reaffirm before the conference its consistent stands in support of the Palestinian people's rights and the importance of establishing a world economic order to achieve the interest of the developing peoples and bring about international equilibrium.

TRIPARTITE TALKS ON TABAH TO CONVENE 2 MAR

NC251119 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA) -- MENA has learned that the Egyptian-U.S.-Israeli contacts on the Tabah issue resulted in an agreement to hold tripartite talks on the experts level in Ismailia on 2 March. MENA has also learned that the Tabah issue will be discussed, particularly the transitional arrangements in the disputed area, and the procedures to settle the dispute through reconciliation and arbitration.

'ALI SAYS MIDDLE EAST IN 'DECISIVE PHASE'

NC271420 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has announced that the Middle East area is passing through a decisive phase, adding that this fact shoulders Egyptian diplomacy with the responsibility of working for achieving a comprehensive and just peace in the area.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali made the above statement in a speech which he delivered at a ceremony held to mark the graduation of a new batch of diplomatic attaches.

SADDAM HUSAYN INTERVIEWED ON NONALIGNED SUMMIT

LD252012 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1820 GMT 25 Feb 83

["Pool" item]

[Text] Baghdad, February 25 (TANJUG) -- At their forthcoming summit, the non-aligned countries should confirm the original principles of nonalignment, goals and essence of the Nonaligned Movement and stick to them fully, devotedly and actively, President Saddam Husayn of Iraq has said in an interview with TANJUG.

It is necessary to strengthen the independence of the nonaligned countries, stay away from the centres of international polarization so as to make it possible for this movement to meet its obligations towards the international community and contribute towards solving international problems and crises which pose threats to world peace, security, freedom of peoples and their independence and their right to social and economic development, the Iraqi president said.

Evualating the international moment at which the nonaligned summit is to take place, President Saddam Husayn pointed out that the nonaligned summit conference would be held in a very complex international situation as a result of intensified strain in relations between the great powers. This is why, he said, the nonaligned countries must not afford any narrowing of their field of activity, but, on the contrary, must -- taking the principles of nonalignment and the movement's historical responsibilities as their points of departure -- immediately and tirelessly work in the direction of tension-easing.

In doing so, the Iraqi president stressed, the nonaligned countries [word indistinct] not take a neutral stand on the causes of tension that lead to even to [as received] armed conflicts, but the movement has struggled and is struggling for stabilization of peace in the world.

The Nonaligned Movement -- regardless of pressures to which it is exposed and efforts to lessen its influence -- has been actively and positively contributing to problem solving, thanks to its freedom-loving and peace-loving essence and deep striving for justice and truth, the Iraqi president recalled.

Being the moral strength of mankind, the Nonaligned Movement draws its strength from noble principles and goals which it proclaimed and for which it struggles. It is capable of facing challenges, of offering an active and positive contribution towards solving the world's problems and disputes in the interest of universal stability. This is why it is necessary for the nonaligned countries to take care not to be drawn into international conflicts and, thus, become one of the immediate protagonists. They must safeguard their own independence, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn emphasized.

Further, the Iraqi head of state also recalled that the nonaligned countries raise steady initiatives for global negotiations on changing the existing unequal economic relations. Therefore, to establish a new international economic order, in which the unequal relations of exploitation between the developed and the developing countries will be eliminated, is the lasting goal of the nonaligned countries.

Such initiatives have met with failures so far, he said, above all because of the unyielding stand of some industrially developed countries with the U.S. at their head, which turned down any global negotiations, at any case, it is necessary that the nonaligned countries keep tirelessly working on establishing a new international economic order, and the movement's growing real and moral influence will surely contribute towards reaching that goal.

In President Husayn's evaluation, substantial roots of conflicts among the nonaligned countries lie in their age-old colonial dependence, robbery and plundering of their natural resources while they were dependent countries, the policy of force, forms of domination, occupation and hegemony.

On account of all of this, the nonaligned countries must solve seriously and sincerely their problems and disputes within the movement. We must constructively discuss that important and very delicate problem at the forthcoming 7th summit, Saddam Husayn said.

The Iraqi president qualified the situation in the Middle East and wider as very dangerous. There, above all, he made mention of Israel's expansionist policy and its assaults on the independence of Arab countries, above all Lebanon, and its persistent efforts to eliminate the Palestinian resistance.

The Iraq-Iran conflict unfavorably reflects (?on) all the developments in the region and paralyzes forces that could actively oppose the danger from Zionism, he also stressed. The fundamental causes of weakness in the region are lack of Arab solidarity and local wars which spread and damage the solving of that region's essential problems, he said.

Relations between Iraq and Yugoslavia have been developing very well and keep growing stronger in the interests of the two countries' [word indistinct] goals and contribute to peace and security in the world. Iraqi President Saddam Husayn said in conclusion of his interview with TANJUG.

We wish blooming and progress to our good relations with Yugoslavia. This is in the interest of the two countries' peoples' of strengthening and developing the Nonaligned Movement and of strivings of the international community, President Saddam Husayn of Iraq said in conclusion.

IRANIAN BATTLE LOSSES REPORTED 24-27 FEB

Communique No 1,011

JN251640 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Feb (INA) -- The Iraqi Armed Forces have inflicted losses in life and equipment on the Iranian forces, the visible part of which amounted to 25 dead and a number of wounded. Communique No 1,011 issued this evening by the Armed Forces General Command noted that the Iraqi forces have destroyed one vehicle, two excavators, one bunker, and a number of infantry positions in the central and northern operational sectors and in the area east of Basra. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,011 issued by the Armed Forces General Command: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With mounting valor, sacrifice, and determination, the glorious Iraqis continued their fight against the Khomeyniite aggressors in defense of the cherished homeland and the gains of the glorious 17-30 July revolution. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. One of our forward units sighted an enemy concentration opposite their positions in the central operational sector, hitting it with various types of weapons and killing 12 and destroying 1 vehicle, 2 excavators, 1 bunker, and a number of infantry positions.

2. One of our units attacked a group of enemy personnel in the northern sector, killing 13 and wounding others.

3. Using various types of weapons, one of our units pounded enemy positions east of Basra, inflicting some losses and torching them.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 February 1983

Communique No 1,012

JN261647 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Feb (INA) -- The Iraqi forces killed 10 Iranians and wounded others in the operational sectors during the past 24 hours. Communique No 1,012, issued here tonight by the Armed Forces General Command, added that five enemy soldiers were killed in the northern sector, three in the central sector and two in the Maysan operational sector. The communique indicated that today the enemy shelled the city of Mandali, the subdistrict of Ash-Shihabi, and the village of Zurbatiyah, wounding four civilians and causing damage to eight houses in the city of Mandali and to three houses and one school in the Ash-Shihabi subdistrict. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,012 issued by the Armed Forces General Command. In the name of God; the merciful, the compassionate.

The soldiers of Saddam's glorious Al-Qadisiyah are continuing their valiant activities in the operational sectors against the forces of the clique of charlatanry and lies ruling in Qom and Tehran. The results of the activities carried out yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. A concentration of enemy troops was sighted opposite the positions of one of our units in the northern sector of the battlefield. Our forces pounded it with various weapons, killing five and wounding others.

2. Three were killed, others wounded, and one 106-mm artillery piece destroyed in the central sector of the battlefield.

3. Two were killed in the Maysan operational sector.

4. Today the vile Khomeyniite regime shelled the city of Mandali, the subdistrict of Ash-Shihabi, and the village of Zurbatiyah, wounding four civilians and causing damage to eight houses in Mandali and to three houses and one school in the Ash-Shihabi subdistrict.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 26 February 1983

Communique No 1,013

JN271707 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1640 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Feb (INA) -- Iraqi fighter planes today carried out daring and successful air strikes against Iranian positions and troop concentrations in the Maysan operational sector, and against important military targets deep inside the enemy territory in the southern sector. All of our planes returned safely to base.

Communique No 1,013 issued tonight by the Armed Forces General Command noted that the Iranian enemy sustained grave losses in life and equipment as a result of the air raids. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,013 issued by the Armed Forces General Command: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

In order that Iraq's banner shall remain lofty and its honor remain protected, our valiant armed forces continued their activities in the operational sector against the spiteful aggressor Khomeyniite clique. The following are the results for last night and today:

1. Today, our fighter planes launched daring and successful strikes against the enemy positions and troop concentrations opposite our positions in the Maysan operational sector, and against important military targets deep inside the enemy territory in the southern operational sector, scoring direct and effective hits. Our gallant eagles inflicted grave losses in life and equipment on the enemy. All of our planes, praise be to God, returned safely to base.

2. Our forward units attacked an enemy concentration in the central sector, killing 11 and destroying 1 106-mm gun and 1 observation post.

3. Using various types of weapons, our forward units pounded enemy positions in the Maysan operational sector, killing three and destroying one observation post. Also, one of our great patrols, while performing its tasks in the same sector, seized quantities of weapons and various military equipment which were left by the enemy in the no man's land during previous battles.

4. One was killed east of Basra.

5. The Khomeyniite regime, which harbors rancor against Arabism and Islam, today shelled with artillery Mandali and Ash-Shihabi. The bestial shelling damaged a mosque in Ash-Shihabi and seven houses in Mandali.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 27 February 1983

POLISH DEPUTY CHAIRMAN ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT

JN272114 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2050 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Feb (INA) -- Janusz Obodowski, deputy chairman of the Polish Council of State, arrived here tonight for an official visit to Iraq. During the visit, the Polish official will head his country's side to the meeting of the joint Iraqi-Polish Committee, which will begin its work tomorrow.

In an arrival statement to INA, Obodowski expressed confidence that the committee will adopt resolutions affecting economic cooperation and increasing the exchange of trade between the two countries. Obodowski said relations between Iraq and Poland are continuously developing in the interest of the two friendly peoples.

INDIAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES BAGHDAD

JN271130 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1105 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Feb (INA) -- Ramish Bandari, Indian deputy foreign minister, concluded his visit to Iraq and departed yesterday evening.

Bandari delivered a written message to President Saddam Husayn from Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi dealing with the Nonaligned Movement and the tasks of the Seventh Nonaligned Summit which will convene in New Delhi early next month.

Bandari said that his country supports the convening of the Eighth Nonaligned Summit in Baghdad.

AL-QASIM ON JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN RELATIONS

PM241619 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 16 Feb 83 p 1

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim by Hisham Milhim in Amman -- date not given]

[Text] In an interview with 'UKAZ, Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim spoke of the importance of the time element and warned against the continuation of the Israeli occupation of Lebanon. He urged concerted Arab efforts in all directions to rescue Lebanon from Israel's hegemony attempts.

He said that Israel was trying to foment sectarian sedition in Lebanon and maintain the explosive situation in the region because it serves its ambition to become a superpower and thus terrorize and fragment the states around it.

The foreign minister emphasized that restoration of the lost U.S. credibility in the area depended on the U.S. taking a firm stand on the question of the Israeli presence in Lebanon and putting pressure on Israel to stop building settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

He added that Israel's continued building of settlements in the occupied territories was part of a plot to destroy every peace initiative in the Middle East.

On Palestinian representation in any future peace negotiations, Al-Qasim said that Palestinian participation was essential in any moves in that direction. He pointed out that PLO participation would be the ideal solution, but if that could not be achieved then the delegation should include representatives expressing the wishes and rights of the Palestinian people.

Referring to future relations between Jordan and the Palestinian state, Al-Qasim said that basically this issue would be tackled after the occupation ends. The inhabitants, he said, will then determine their own fate and the form of their relations with Jordan. Within the framework of these relations, he noted, there will be a legislative council and a government in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in charge of all economic and educational matters pertaining to the Palestinian region, and the same will apply to the Jordanian region (Jordan will consider itself a region in this context in order to avoid any possible obstacles).

Al-Qasim explained that the Jordanian and Palestinian regions will have a central government, a central legislative council, and a central executive council with equal representation.

The text of the interview will be published shortly.

PAPERS COMMENT ON REAGAN STATEMENTS ON ISRAEL

JN250846 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "A Step To Prove U.S. Credibility," AR-RA'Y says: Some 48 hours after President Reagan's call on Israel to withdraw from Lebanon in return for U.S. security guarantees, and some 24 hours after Israel's rejection of this call, the U.S. President again called on Israel to withdraw, so all non-Lebanese forces could be withdrawn from Lebanon and an attempt would begin to tackle the Palestine question.

What draws the attention is that President Reagan's recent statements have included important elements which can be summed up as follows:

1. The emphasis on the time factor and on saying that the peace process in the region cannot be further delayed.

2. The adherence to the point that the first priority is Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon, and the rejection of the Israeli position which links withdrawal to reaching a peace treaty with Lebanon.

3. The submission that Israeli withdrawal from the Lebanese territories must precede any attempt to tackle the Palestine question.

4. The refutation of Israel's traditional security claims by reminding it that peace is the only real guarantee for its security.

5. The clear reference for the first time to the poor condition of the Israeli economy, which is overburdened by inflation, and the clear hint that Israel's dependence on this economy will not enable it to continue to maintain a military force too large for it. This clear hint on the importance of U.S. economic and military aid to Israel is not devoid of threat.

6. The rejection of the Israeli plan to turn the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza into a foreign community on Israeli territory by emphasizing that the Palestinians must have a homeland.

Thus, it can be said that Reagan's statements constitute a step toward U.S. credibility and show an intention not to succumb to Isreali intransigence so the Reagan initiative can move forward. These statements also constitute a kind of overt pressure on Isreal.

AR-RA'Y concludes: Naturally, no one can predict the effectiveness of these hints to Israel, because all this will depend on U.S. actions and ability to pressure Israel to agree to follow the path of peace. The important thing is not just credibility, but also efficacy and results.

Under the headline "The Israeli Fortress and the U.S. Lectures," AD-DUSTUR says: We were astonished by President Reagan's question in his statements yesterday as to how long Israel could continue to live as a military fortress. This is because the U.S. Administration knows the answer to this question. The answer is that Israel will insist on remaining a fortress as long as the United States continues to provide it with all the means for aggression, intransigence, and arrogance, and is satisfied with simply playing the role of the lecturer to Israel as President Reagan did yesterday.

AD-DUSTUR says: The U.S. President spoke about the high rate of inflation in Israel, 130 percent, and the fact that Israel is compelled to maintain a military presence which is incompatible with its own size. However, the President has forgotten, or pretended to forget, that half of U.S. foreign aid goes to Israel and that the latter pays for only some of the sophisticated weapons it is getting from the United States, the rest being free. All this and the political cover which the United States has always provided to hide Israel's crimes and sins have led to Israel's insistence on living with a fortress mentality, of behaving toward others accordingly, and also of interpreting peace and security to mean the other side's acceptance of all its conditions and demands. But what is more astonishing is that Israel has rejected even the U.S. role as lecturer through its officials.

Begin's replies to Reagan's recent statements clearly indicate his firm conviction that Washington can do nothing but talk. The guarantees which Reagan said the United States was ready to provide to protect Israel's northern border were considered by Begin not worth taking seriously, because they are guarantees which need to be guaranteed, as he said.

AD-DUSTUR adds: Reagan's talk about the Palestinians' right to a homeland was answered by Begin's frank assertion that the Israeli concept of Camp David supersedes the U.S. concept. Therefore, the importance of the Camp David accords is not in their spirit, but in what Israel considers suitable in these accords for its security. So far, Washington has confined itself to making appeals, giving advice, expressing concern that time is running out, stressing the importance of Middle East peace, and declaring its desire for a just settlement of the crisis. While such a stand is acceptable from a small state which is not concerned about war and peace in the region, it cannot be acceptable from the United States, whose support and assistance to Israel has enabled it to continue to expand, invade neighboring countries, commit crimes against civilians, and threaten world peace.

AD-DUSTUR concludes: The U.S. President's conviction that Israel is living in a military fortress is sufficient proof that his appeals, expression of concern, and vocal appeals are useless. If, as the U.S. President believes, Israel's security depends on its acceptance of peace, then this acceptance depends, in turn, on the firm determination of the United States to stand by its international obligations. The military fortress of which President Reagan spoke was created with U.S. aid and has exceeded all bounds in its arrogance because of this aid. This fortress would immediately collapse if Washington stopped this aid. We hope that Washington will abandon the role of lecturer and begin the work of dismantling the fortress of evil which it has set up in the Middle East.

INDIAN VICE PRESIDENT ARRIVES 27 FEBRUARY

JN271922 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] Indian Vice President His Excellency Mohammad Hidayatullah and his wife arrived in Amman this evening on a 5-day official visit to Jordan, during which he will meet with His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, and a number of senior officials. They were received by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, Her Highness Princess Tharwat, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court and his wife, the Senate president, the Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd and his wife, Her Highness Princess Majidah, the minister of tourism and antiquities, the acting dean of the diplomatic corps in Amman, the mayor of Amman, the chief of staff of the Jordanian Armed Forces, the Indian ambassador in Amman and his wife, and a number of officials.

The Indian vice president, whose visit aims to promote joint friendly cooperation between the two countries, is accompanied by an official delegation. During his stay in Jordan, he will be accompanied by an escort mission led by Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd.

IRAQI OFFICIAL LEAVES AMMAN FOR RIYADH 27 FEB

JN271253 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] 'Abd al-Malik al-Yasin, Iraqi Foreign Ministry under secretary, left Amman for Riyadh today at the end of a short visit to Jordan.

'Abd al-Malik al-Yasin met with Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim with whom he discussed matters connected to promoting relations of cooperation and coordination between the two countries.

HABIB GOING TO ISRAEL WITH 'MAXIMUM' OFFERS

NC270830 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] Some 48 hours before the start of the 19th round of the Lebanese-Israeli-American negotiations, U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib will leave for Israel accompanied by the head of the U.S. delegation to the tripartite negotiations, Morris Draper, who was not able to leave for Tel Aviv yesterday as scheduled because of bad weather conditions. Habib will communicate to Israel Lebanon's final stand on the points put forward in the negotiations. Habib had consultations on these points with Lebanese officials for 2 days.

Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan explained that Lebanon has provided Habib with the maximum it can offer in the negotiations. The U.S. envoy will seek to soften the Israeli stand on the basic points of difference related to security arrangements and mutual relations. The U.S. presidential envoy is expected to meet Israeli officials tomorrow, Monday, and to return to Beirut in the middle of next week.

An official source emphasized that the 19th round of talks will be held in Khaldam on Tuesday and that the peripheral consultations, which are being carried out by the U.S. side to eliminate obstacles and work out formulas for the points agreed upon, will not affect the public negotiations. The subcommittees will continue their discussions of the items on the agenda.

The source repeated that Lebanon refuses to allow the presence of any foreign military positions on its territory, such as warning stations or observation posts, and that it is eager to maintain its normal relations with the Arab states and refuses to have its interests with these states harmed.

'SOURCES' EXPECT WITHDRAWAL TO BEGIN SOON

NC271908 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] Some sources say that a formula has been submitted suggesting that a U.S. force, in cooperation with the Lebanese Army, assume control of the observation points to combat Palestinian infiltration. It is suggested that the Lebanese soldiers could be from those who have worked under the command of Major Haddad in the south.

The sources expect this week to be decisive with regard to the start of withdrawals and that contacts are taking place between Beirut and Damascus in this regard. Although there is nothing to indicate a specific date for the start of these withdrawals, the sources expect them to take place soon.

SALIM ON MULTINATIONAL FORCE, NEGOTIATIONS

NC280716 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim has been quoted as saying that Lebanon has not yet officially received any explanation for President Ronald Reagan's statement related to U.S. guarantees for Israel's northern borders. Minister Salim expressed the belief that Washington wants to reactivate the strategic pact with Israel.

On whether he expects an increase in the number of the multiantional force, the foreign minister explained that these forces' duties must be expanded and that they must be deployed throughout Lebanon. He added: I do not believe that this step will disturb Syria or the Soviet Union. He continued: It is known that President al-Jumayyil's view is that the Lebanese Army is still too young to be able to carry out such an extensive duty.

On the role of the emergency forces in the south, Minister Salim said: I believe that the formula we are working with now is aimed at finding coordination between the multinational force and the international forces with a view to making their deployment possible to fill the vacuum that will result from the withdrawals. Minister Salim said he expects the number of the multinational force to reach 9,000 and pointed out that five states have so far agreed to participate provided that their forces will be within the framework of the international forces and under UN auspices. We expect, Minister Salim said, to achieve this goal because these states will respond to our request.

The foreign minister affirmed that the negotiations [with Israel] have made progress, particularly in the past 2 weeks, despite the presence of some obstacles.

AL-WAZZAN COMMENTS ON WITHDRAWAL EFFORTS

NC271322 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Text] In an interview to be published tomorrow by the weekly MONDAY MORNING, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan explains the basic lines on which Lebanon is moving in the negotiations for ousting non-Lebanese forces from Lebanese territory. He also emphasizes a readiness to agree on security arrangements that lead to ousting Israel from the south.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan began the interview by saying: The expressions of fundamental progress in the negotiations with Israel are exaggerated. However, he affirms that there is progress, a different atmosphere, and a new and enthusiastic American stand as well as new developments on the Lebanese and Israeli domestic levels and on the general Arab level. This is in addition to the growing international support in the interest of the Lebanese stand.

He adds: As for withdrawals, Lebanon's stand is well known and clear. Lebanon rejects a partial withdrawal and stresses that the withdrawals must be comprehensive. There is nothing to prevent the drawing up of a timetable for the withdrawals. He emphasizes that there is a suitable opportunity for achieving Israeli withdrawals.

Replying to a question as to whether Lebanon will accept a kind of security arrangement between it and Israel for a withdrawal from its territory, the prime minister says that when Lebanon entered into the negotiations in Khaldah and Qiryat Shemona, it did so with a true inclination toward peace. Therefore, it is prepared to accept solutions that will preserve its sovereignty, security, and higher interests, including its relations within its Arab environs. He adds: We are prepared to create any security arrangements that rule out an Israeli presence in the south, particularly any military presence, including the existence of any warning stations of any kind. He says that the presence of international or multinational forces can be discussed at the negotiations table to agree on its circumstances and conditions.

Asked about his assessment of the American stand toward Lebanon and whether the United States is serious in achieving withdrawals from Lebanon before the start of the U.S presidential campaign, Prime Minister al-Wazzan says that all indications point to U.S. efforts characterized by serious determination and activity. He adds: We feel the U.S. efforts through contacts on all levels and through the negotiations, and we find their effects in the reality of American-Israeli relations at this particular phase. He says that he hopes that comprehensive withdrawals will be completed before the start of the U.S. election campaign.

He goes on to say: We had many reservations about the dates given to us for the realization of comprehensive withdrawals before the end of last year and, regrettably, this promise was not fulfilled. In any case, we appreciate everyone's circumstances and we hope everyone will appreciate our circumstances and our urgent need for the achievement of withdrawals as soon as possible.

In conclusion Prime Minister al-Wazzan emphasizes that the official stand regarding Sa'd Haddad is well known and that it was adopted some time ago. He says that the general attitude toward him is bound by our (?stand) toward Israel, his stand toward Israel, and his relations with it.

AFP INTERVIEWS HADDAD ON REJOINING ARMY

OW260457 Hong Kong AFP in English 0420 GMT 26 Feb 83

[By Samy Katz]

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, Feb. 25 (AFP) -- Israeli-backed dissident Lebanese Army Major Sa'd Haddad confirmed here today that his troops would be reintegrated into the Lebanese Army but he denied that a decision had been made on his return.

In an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESS at the barracks in Sidon, 40 kms (24 miles) south of Beirut, where he has been stationed since February 14, the commander of the "army of free Lebanon" said the agreement reached during Lebanese-Israeli negotiations concerning his forces was a "good thing since it is in the interest of Lebanon." The agreement has not yet been confirmed by official Lebanese sources.

"My army will be reintegrated into the Lebanese Army to guarantee the security of southern Lebanon. This army which I am now organizing has a sense of honor; its only ideal is Lebanon. It knows its friends and enemies," the major said.

He named the enemies as the "Syrians and the terrorists (Palestinian fighters)" and the friends as the Israelis. He said he wanted to negotiate directly with Lebanon on the reintegration of his forces and that these negotiations should not only be between Lebanon and Israel. "I will not be an obstacle," he said. "I am not thinking of my "personal interest but of that of Lebanon."

"When my country is liberated, unified, independent, I will retire to my home. I will resign from my military career since I have done my duty. I think there are few Lebanese officers and have given as much as I have to the homeland," Major Haddad said.

The major, who founded his army of free Lebanon in 1979, said: "Our forces never left the Lebanese Army but quite the opposite. Under Syrian-terrorist pressure, the Lebanese Government was forced to leave us. Now that this pressure is gone, it is returning to us."

He said the deployment of his forces in southern Lebanon was almost over and that he had enough men to control the region. The deployment had been to support the Lebanese Government and "to prevent any partition of the country," he said.

He also said a "purification of the Lebanese Army" was needed to rid it of officers drunk with "pro-terrorist or pro-Arab" ideals. The purge must be of "almost half of Lebanese officers since it is not enough to wear a military uniform to be a Lebanese soldier," he said.

ISRAEL'S KIMCHE ON CONDITIONS FOR AGREEMENT

NC261810 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Text] On the eve of Habib's arrival in Israel, the head of the Israeli delegation to the negotiations, David Kimche, has expressed the hope that everything will end well with respect to the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations. In an interview with the CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY [wakalat al-anba' al-markaziyah], he said: I would like to point out that the important phase in the negotiations -- the phase that was the psychological question, or the start of negotiations between Lebanon and Israel -- has ended.

Kimche added: With respect to the withdrawals, I am convinced that the Lebanese side and Lebanon are now fully convinced that Israel will withdraw from Lebanon at the appropriate time. However, I am also convinced that Lebanon wants us to draw up the conditions which we have made for the withdrawal, namely, the necessity of the PLO's and the Palestinian terrorists' complete withdrawal first while the Syrians will withdraw simultaneously with us. Kimche said: All Lebanese are pleased that we have made these conditions, which are in the interest of both Lebanon and Israel.

The head of the Israeli negotiating delegation said: Frankly, we have many reservations on the Syrian stand regarding the withdrawals. After many years of knowing the Syrians, we have learned that we should be very cautious with Syria. The day the last Syrian soldier leaves Lebanese territory we will be convinced of Syria's intentions.

Concerning the question of withdrawals, Kimche said: We are prepared for a partial withdrawal provided the Palestinian terrorists leave first and the Syrian forces withdraw from the mountain to Al-Biqa'. If Lebanon wants that and the other parties are prepared to implement it, we are ready to carry out this step. He added: If the Palestinians do not withdraw from Lebanon, we will not arrive at a practical and successful agreement.

Kimche added: After the agreement that will result from the Khaldah and Qiryat Shemona meetings, we will completely and fully withdraw after we have received our prisoners of war and the bodies of our soldiers. The withdrawal will be simultaneous with the Syrian withdrawal.

On a timetable for withdrawals prepared by Ambassador Philip Habib, the head of the Israeli delegation said: I do not want to disclose the talks with Ambassador Habib. However, there is no timetable because any timetable should be linked with the date of an agreement on withdrawals among Lebanon, Syria, and the Palestinians and subsequently the date of implementing these withdrawals.

Kimche finally noted that the negotiations are progressing well and that there is mutual goodwill between Lebanon and Israel. We have made great progress and we are now in the course of drafting the provisions of the agreement, he said.

EXPLOSION OCCURS IN BEIRUT SUBURB 27 FEB

NC272222 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2203 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] Dear listeners, we have just received the following news item: Some 5 minutes ago an explosion reverberated in the southern suburb [of Beirut]. The Internal Security Forces' operations center in B'abda says contacts are underway to locate the place of the explosion, which is believed to have occurred near the township of Al-Hadath.

RADIO ON WITHDRAWALS, HABIB'S VISIT TO DAMASCUS

JN251946 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1810 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Telephone dispatch by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Damascus Louis Faris carried within "It Happened Tomorrow" program on 25 Feburary -- live or recorded]

[Excerpts] If the withdrawals from Lebanon constitute an urgent and basic issue for the United States, as President Ronald Reagan has reiterated, the withdrawals, likewise, constitute the same thing for Syria. As far as Syria is concerned, they head the list of priorities. Damascus has often declared that the issue of the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon is the top priority among the political issues. Damascus has urged all Arabs to concert efforts to deliver Lebanon from this nightmare.

Damascus has also told the far and near that the withdrawal of its troops from Lebanon is not a problem. The problem lies in the Israeli withdrawal which must unconditionally and immediately be effected, Damascus added. This means, as President Hafiz al-Asad has made clear to all who have visited him, that Israel must not be allowed to achieve any gains out of its invasion of Lebanon.

Radio Monte Carlo this week unveiled a secret visit to Damascus last Tuesday by Jean Ubayd, the envoy for Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil. Today, we can disclose the nature of the lengthy and secret talks Jean 'Ubayd had with senior Syrian officials, but at the same time, we reserve our right not to disclose the names of the sources for certain considerations.

Jean 'Ubayd has told Damascus that B'abda [Lebanese presidential palace] is interested in using the Syrian presence as a means of pressure for attaining an Israeli pullout, particularly since President al-Asad, previously, in a written undertaking to President al-Jumayyil, pledged that not a single Syrian soldier would remain in Lebanon after the completion of the all-out Israeli withdrawal. The Syrian president has conveyed this stand to French Minister of External Relations Claude Cheysson, who was satisfied with this stand.

B'abda, however, noted at the same time that the Syrian presence should not be used as a pretext by the Israelis to stay in Lebanon. B'abda added that Lebanon is eager to preserve Syria's dignity and that it is inadmissible that the Syrian and Israeli sides should be treated alike. 'Ubayd told the Syrians: This is our problem, why do you not help us since you said you are ready to help us? Help us to find the best suitable formula.

Damascus, in a question which assumed no official nature, asked: How would you like us to help you?

'Ubayd answered: Resume the dialogue with the U.S. side. We also want President Hafiz al-Asad to agree to receive U.S. envoy Philip Habib. You will lose nothing, and, perhaps, together we will succeed in our joint efforts, lest Israel resort to solving the problem by force, and this would mean the occupation of all Lebanon.

Damascus answered: The Israeli threats, though they might intimidate some people, would not intimidate Damascus, which is determined to turn any new Israeli military adventure into a bloodbath that would shake it more vigorously than was the case in 1973.

Jean 'Ubayd came to Damascus on an unofficial visit but his return to Beirut assumed an official appearance as he conveyed to President al-Jumayyil Damascus approval to receive Habib.

DAMASCUS COMMENTARY ON ARENS' THREATS TO SYRIA

JN251519 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] Before assuming his powers as minister of war, the Zionist Moshe Arens was supplied with the U.S. Administration's instructions and plans to deal an aggressive blow to Syria and its armed forces. He returned to Israel to implement with other Israeli leaders those plans and instructions.

Moshe Arens' threat to Syria, after meeting with President Reagan, was clear-cut evidence of the U.S. role in the premeditated aggression, especially if we link this threat, which is based on the pretext that Syria is strengthening its defensive capability, and the U.S. claim that the strengthening of that capability will threaten the 6th Fleet's safety in the Mediterranean. In fact, if the silliness of the U.S. Administration's claim that Syria threatens the 6th Fleet's safety was exposed, this would not mean that the United States is not concerned over what Syria is doing to strengthen its defensive capabilities because the U.S. leaders are fully aware that the strengthening of this capability will be an insurmountable obstacle to the capitulatory settlement and the liquidation of the Palestine question, as well as the imposition of the joint U.S.-Israeli hegemony over the Arab region. In other words, when Syria undertakes to establish a strategic balance with its Israeli enemy, this, according to the U.S. standpoint, hampers the implementation of the provisions of the strategic cooperation agreement between the United States and Israel. Also, according to the U.S. standpoint, Syria might attack the military footholds [murtamazat] of these two sides on Lebanon's territory as long as the task of these footholds is not confined to threatening Lebanon's security, independence, and sovereignty, but goes beyond that to threaten Syria's security and the entity of the Arab nation.

Arab Syria does not conceal the fact that it is building its military power because it considers this its legitimate right to which nothing is parallel except its right to defend itself, people, and the masses of its nation. Therefore, Syria will not refrain from practicing that right because it considers it a patriotic and national duty, which is interlinked with its future, fate, and the entity of the Arab nation. Naturally, Syria is able to confront the threat, because it derives this ability from the masses of its people and nation, from the Arab liberation forces' support, from the support of international forces and liberation movements, as well as from the support of the socialist countries, foremost of which is the friendly Soviet Union.

Naturally, Syria will remain as it is known by the sons of the nation: Syria which offers sacrifices, Syria of heroism, Syria which is not frightened by threats, and Syria of Al-Asad.

ASSEMBLY SPEAKER RECEIVES UK LABOR PARTY MP'S

JN262028 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud az-Zu'bi this morning received the British House of Commons delegation headed by Ronald Moyle, deputy leader of the British Labor Party and member of the House of Commons, [title as heard] in the presence of Dr Muhsin Bilal, chairman of the assembly's Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee.

Moyle expressed his pleasure and that of the members of his delegation at visiting Syria, and spoke about the positive impressions formed by the delegation during its talks in the People's Assembly and meetings with party and government officials and by its visits to several tourist, historical, and economic establishments.

Moyle explained the Labor Party's positions on Arab issues, especially the Palestine question, and on the need to create a national homeland for the Palestinians by establishing their own independent state on Palestinian territory. Moyle asserted that the Reagan plan is not sufficient for solving the Middle East crisis. He said that the Israeli Government's aggressive expansionist behavior, its invasion of Lebanon and the inhuman Sabra and Shatila massacres, have exposed it to the world.

Az-Zu'bi then spoke. He welcomed the guest delegation and expressed the hope that its talks in Damascus have given it a true picture of the situation in the region. He pointed out that the Fes summit resolutions are the minimum Arab demands and the possible basis for a solution to Arab issues. Az-Zu'bi affirmed that the Arabs are not advocates of war, but want to defend their legitimate rights to achieve a comprehensive solucion and just peace.

Az-Zu'bi explained that Syria is firm on its stands under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad and that it will continue its just struggle to liberate the occupied Arab territories and to achieve the Palestinian Arab people's rights to determine their own destiny, return to their homeland, and establish their independent state on their national soil under the leadreship of the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative.

Delegation Departs

JN261539 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1510 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Text] Damascus, 26 Feb (SANA) -- The British House of Commons delegation led by Ronald Moyle, deputy leader of the British Labor Party, left Damascus today after a 5-day visit to Syria. The British delegation met during the visit with a number of officials in the party's leadership and the People's Assembly.

The delegation was seen off at Damascus airport by Dr Muhsin Bilal, chairman of the People's Assembly's Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee and a number of assembly members.

KHADDAM CONFERS WITH UK'S LORD CARRINGTON 27 FEB

JN271430 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received in his office at noon today Lord Carrington, former British minister of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs. The meeting was attended by Sulayman Haddad, director of the Western Europe Department at the Foreign Ministry, and the British ambassador in Damascus.

During the meeting, the talk revolved around the current Middle East political situation. Lord Carrington arrived in Damascus last night on a visit to Syria.

Al-Asad Meets Lord Carrington

JN271813 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] Damascus, 27 Feb (SANA) -- At 1815 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Lord Carrington, former British minister of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, in the presence of the British ambassador in Damascus. The discussions focused on issues related to the international situation and the current state of affairs in the Middle East.

AL-BA'TH WARNS AGAINST 'BEFRIENDING' U.S.

PM272151 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 21 Feb 83 p 1

[Editorial: "The Latent Danger in Befriending America"]

[Text] One question is being asked in the Arab arena, which is: Is it true that the United States has become everything and that disaster will befall whoever opposes it.

The answer to this question lies in a popular proverb which says: "The wounded dances from pain." If the United States had not reached such a degree of dejection and depression, which is driving it more toward contemplating suicide rather than seeking succor, its suspect movements around the world would not have indicated that it is dancing from pain.

The Arabs, more than other peoples of the world, should keep away from the American, who is looking for a land on which to commit suicide after the Europeans, allies of the reckless American, have refused to be party to a collective suicide operation that their peoples reject.

For this reason, the United States has been looking for a substitute location for Europe. It has found in Arab regimes that are naive and stupid to the point of foolishness, what it has been looking for in order to establish bases of collective death, such as military bases and alliances that offer the Arabs nothing except participation in the nuclear suicide which the United States is trying to commit.

In such circumstances, one question comes to mind for the Arab: Why do pro-American Arabs applaud and say that they are in conflict with Israel?

The answer to this is provided by U.S. diplomacy, which with deceit and misguidance has been able to convince those Arabs that their conflict with the Soviet Union has priority over their conflict with Israel. It has also portrayed the Iranian revolution to them as a danger threatening them, claiming that fighting it should come before fighting Israel. The United States has indeed succeeded in this regard and found in the clear Arab sky a space to fill the lungs of the suicidal American with air to breath.

Under this policy of deceit, the pro-American Arabs have even gone beyond As-Sadat's saying that "all the cards are in America's hands." The Egyptian regime has become one of the regimes that is most devoted to loving America and, therefore, loving Israel because America has never stopped saying that she and Israel are one soul and one body -- two entities that cannot live without one another.

Therefore, the ideal aim of the present activity in and around the Egyptian capital is to abolish the martyrdom of the Arab in defense of his existence and replace it with martyrdom by an American style nuclear suicide.

If the aim of this activity is to serve Arab rights in Palestine, as its proponents are claiming, did Egypt's surrender deter Israeli expansion in Lebanon, and did friendship with the United States contribute to deterring the Israeli invasion of Lebanon?

The United States has never stopped looking for an excuse to blow the world to pieces. Should the Arabs and their land become the new Danzig"?

HABIB ARRIVES 27 FEB, TO MEET KIMCHE, SHAMIR

TA271509 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] U.S. mediator Philip Habib arrived in Israel this afternoon and within a short time will confer with Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche and senior Foreign Ministry officials in Jerusalem. Habib will confer tomorrow with Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and will present him with the agreements [sikumim] he is bringing along from Beirut. Earlier, it was reported from the Lebanese capital that the memorandum Habib is bringing along also notes the issues on which the parties still differ.

Brings Draft Plan

TA271947 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] Our political correspondent notes that the differences of opinion between Israel and Lebanon about the stationing of UNIFIL troops in southern Lebanon and the location of the early warning stations apparently persist. U.S. mediator Philip Habib conferred this evening with Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche. Tomorrow, he is to confer with Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

Our political correspondent reports that the impresson in Jerusalem is that Habib has not brought along a concluded U.S.-Lebanese plan to promote the negotiations about an arrangement in Lebanon. Quoting Arab sources, our correspondent on Arab affairs notes that Habib is bringing along a draft agreement on six issues. In the draft, Lebanon proposes, among other things, to deploy its army in the south in order to defend the border with Israel while the UNIFIL force will serve as a buffer between the two countries.

Sources on Current Habib Mission

TA280639 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Philip Habib has returned from Beirut, so far without an agreement. This morning he is expected to confer with Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Here is a report by our political correspondent, 'Oz Frankel:

[Begin recording] Israeli as well as U.S. sources were known to give nearly identical statements this morning: That the Lebanese media has overblown things, and Habib is not bringing with him from Beirut any full agreement for arrangements in Lebanon. The chances for attaining such an arrangement in a week are slim, and consequently the chances for beginning the withdrawal of the forces during that period of time are all the more slim.

Last night the U.S. envoy met with the senior officials of the Foreign Ministry, headed by the ministry's director general, David Kimche. One of the participants in the meeting from the Israeli side called the meeting a technical one marked by an abundance of paperwork. Again various documents were exchanged regarding the details of the arrangement, and Habib is continuing to work toward closing gaps, particularly on the issue of normalizing the two countries' relations. In this sphere it looks as though a compromise is attainable, because the disagreement is over the timetable: While the Lebanese would like to see a phased, gradual normalization, Israel is demanding the opening of borders immediately after the agreements are signed.

Last night, Habib did not present any compromise formulations regarding the more difficult issues under dispute, such as Israel's demand [tvi'ata] for supervision or observation points [tahanot piquah o tahanot tatzpit], or in any case some sort of IDF presence in southern Lebanon; Beirut's demand [drishata] that UNIFIL or some other multinational force be stationed in the security strip, and finally the question of Major Haddad's personal status.

If Habib brought any compromise proposals on these issues at all, then he will specify them this morning when he meets with the foreign minister. Jerusalem is not anticipating any magic formulas, saying that the negotiations over the security arrangements will still take time.

Let us also mention the fact that Western sources have made it clear that for the time being the envoy has no intention of visiting Damascus. According to those sources, Habib will focus his efforts on closing the gaps between Israel and Lebanon on the political level in parallel with the direct negotiations in Khaldah and Netanya. [end recording]

CABINET MEETS, VIEWS HUSAYN; ARENS PARTICIPATES

TA271114 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1105 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] The Cabinet meeting ended a few minutes ago. Defense Minister Moshe Arens participated in today's weekly meeting for the first time. Let us go over to the prime minister's office to our correspondent, 'Oz Frankel:

[Frankel -- live] Well then, today's meeting was marked by the inclusion of a new member in the Cabinet, Defense Minister Moshe Arens. The prime minister extended his good wishes to the new minister and the ministers praised the role Arens played in Israeli-U.S. relations over the past year.

Before the meeting, the incoming defense minister conferred with the prime minister in the latter's office. During the meeting Moshe Arens reviewed Israeli-U.S. relations in light of President Reagan's recent remarks and the expectations in Washington regarding King Husayn's next moves.

The chances of King Husayn's joining the talks was mentioned in the Cabinet meeting today. Cabinet secretary Dan Meridor said after the meeting that there is no clear information in Israel regarding Husayn's joining; there are points which may mean this, or the opposite. The Cabinet secretary repeated the prime minister's call on King Husayn to come to the negotiating table on the basis of the Camp David accords, without any preconditions.

In the course of the meeting, the foreign minister surveyed the progress made in the direct negotiations with Lebanon, as well as the bones of contention concerning the security arrangements: UNIFIL's presence in southern Lebanon and the observation posts Israel is asking for inside the security zone boundaries.

Another issue raised in the Cabinet meeting: The establishment of a second television channel. Discussion on this issue will continue in one of the future Cabinet meetings.

More on Arens, Shamir Remarks

TA271604 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1510 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer -- live]

[Excerpt] If we are to judge by the reception accorded him by the Cabinet, then Moshe Arens started off on the right foot today. The ministers praised him and, at the end of the meeting, noted the balanced report he gave on Israeli-U.S. relations. The upcoming months will be decisive in relation between the two countries.

The realization is growing within the U.S. Administration that Israel is able to contribute to the Western world following the war in Lebanon despite the worsening of relations due to the IDF's entry into West Beirut. These were some of the statements made by the former Israeli ambassador to Washington.

Arens added that prior to his return to Israel he sensed a certain change in the administration's perception of the settlements although, in his opinion, this should not be overrated. He assessed various administration members and their attitudes toward Israel and stated the following:

Regarding the U.S. State Department: Over 20 senior State Department officials have served in the Arab countries and others who want to serve in this region are trying to tilt U.S. policy in favor of the Arabs.

Regarding Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger: He has been working for the initiative named after President Reagan out of his belief that this would help integrate Husayn into the peace process. The fact should not be dismissed that he was in contact with Arab countries in the past on economic issues. Weinberger does not regard Israel as a strategic asset as Alexander Haig had. However, Arens believes there has recently been a certain rapproachement between his and Israel's positons.

Regarding the Reagan plan: Arens reported a certain sobering-up within the administration in light of the fact that Husayn has not rushed to join in, and is instead taking his time.

At the beginning of his remarks, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir lauded Ambassador Arens and then proceed to report on the state of the negotiations with Lebanon. Everything is known: 80 percent of the arrangements have been concluded and the remaining 20 percent are still in dispute and without them there can be no agreement.

Avulun Hammer queried the foreign minister about what is known to Israel about Husayn's integration into the peace process and how Israel is preparing for such a move. Shamir replied: There is no clear information; we will welcome the Jordanian king as long as he comes without any preconditions. Mordekhay Ben-Porat asked: What did Husayn receive from Reagan? Shamir answered: We know that he has a letter. Administration leaders promise that in the letter the President did not deviate from his public statements made in September of last year. Ari'el Sharon asked: Have dates been set for meetings between Israel and Egyptian representatives on the issue of normalization, similar to those set regarding the dispute area at Tabah? Shamir replied: Dates were set but I do not recall them. The delegations are to meet in mid-March.

The Cabinet today approved some Foreign Ministry appointments: Mikha'el Elitzur will be the ambassador to Vienna, Yohanan Meroz to Berne, Uri Gordon to Manila, Yita'el Pan to Rangoon, and Rahamim Timor to Brasilia.

It was learned today that Ambassador to South Africa Eliyahu Lankin has withdrawn his candidacy to the post of ambassador in London. Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir read a letter Ambassador Lankin sent him to this effect. The letter reads as follows: Considering the rage provoked by certain circles in Britain against my appointment as ambassador in London I am asking to forego my candidacy to this post. I know that the opposition to my candidacy does not have any moral or political justification. However, in order to maintain normal relations between the two countries, it is better not to have any argument about the personality of the Isreali representative. Lankin ended his letter by saying: Relations between the two countries are more important to me than the opinions of several people about my personality.

Sharir on Cabinet Session

TA271554 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1410 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Interview with Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir by Yitzhaq Golan and Raul Tietelbaum on the weekly "Debate" program; live in the studio]

[Excerpt] [Golan] Mr Sharir, the new defense minister assumed his post today. Do you foresee a new era, perhaps a calmer one, entailing a new style in the defense establishment compared to Minister Ari'el Sharon's time?

[Sharir] Each man has his own style. There is no doubt that in his post as defense minister, Moshe Arens will imprint his seal on the defense establishment just as any new minister imprints his own stamp on the system he is put in charge of. I can only say from this morning's experience, in the first Cabinet session attended by the new defense minister, that he has warmly and heartily welcomed by all the participants in the meeting, that despite the Purim atmosphere outside -- and I am happy for this atmosphere, Israelis deserve to be happy, merry, and gay -- this was one of the most serious meeetings we have ever attended. We heard an extensive report from the defense minister, the former ambassador to the United States, which both gave us food for thought and discussion and hope for the future that a man as experienced as he and with his background will be able to contribute a great deal by combining his activities as defense minister and his contacts with representatives of the largest superpower, the United States, which play such an active role in our problems in Israel and particularly in solving the problems in Lebanon.

[Golan] Do you think this will also include the fabric of relations within the Cabinet? Will the style be different there too?

[Sharir] Arens is bringing along an experience with positive relations. The U.S. Administration will also want to prove outwardly that there has been an improvement in relations. Arens does not represent a line different from that represented by Ari'el Sharon from the political and ideological viewpoints. In this respect, Sharon and Arens do not represent an isolated line of their own but the line of the entire Cabinet. However, there is no doubt that the good relationship he developed during his brief stay of 1 year of service in Washington, in addition to the sincere U.S. desire to improve relations and create more regular working relations -- also to prove to us that this is not a personal matter but a question of relations between nations and governments -- will prove a blessing.

[Golan] Mr Sharir, you have said that the new defense minister was warmly greeted by all Cabinet ministers. Does this also include the former defense minister?

[Sharir] Yes, definitely. I believe and am convinced that the former defense minister, just as all other ministers, welcomes him and wishes him success in his work. We must realize that his success is the success of all of us, not just of the government but of the country.

BEGIN ON PROGRESS IN LEBANON TALKS TO KNESSET

TA251218 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1150 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Report by Tazi Barqay from the prime minister's office in Jerusalem -- live]

[Text] The prime minister is bringing tidings of some progress in the talks with Lebanon, mentioning agreement on the issue of ending the state of war between us and the Lebanese, agreement on ceasing hostile activity and the prevention of terrorist acts, as well as agreement on the principle of the withdrawal of all the foreign forces, although the specifics of this principle have not yet been finalized.

Also agreed upon was the matter relating to the maintenance of liaison offices for the Lebanese here, and for us in Lebanon. Menahem Begin said that the Lebanese have accepted the idea of the security strips [plural as heard], but nothing was agreed on the detailed arrangements in those strips. The Lebanese are also prepared to accept UNIFIL presence in guarding the refugee camps in the south, but we are not accepting this.

The prime minister added that Israel insists on the establishment of observation stations [tahanot tatzpit], as he called them. He did not elaborate how many such stations are involved.

On Husayn's joining the negotiations, the prime minister said we have no intention of accepting Husayn's preconditions, and mentioned two of them: a freeze on the settlements and the right to vote [for the autonomy institutions] to the inhabitants of east Jerusalem. These conditions are rejected by Israel outright, Begin said.

Regarding the PLO resolutions in Algiers, in our estimation, the prime minister said, no change has taken place with the PLO the charter has not been altered and no decision was made to cease terrorist acts.

As for the prisoners, he said efforts are being made regardless of the diferences of 200 prisoners in the demands -- in this he referred to the publications in the press alleging that the PLO wants 1,000 prisoners whereas Israel is only prepared to return 800. In other words, the prime minister refuted these reports.

The opposition leaders were very calm. Incidentally, committee circles said that today's debate was very, very pleasant and that both sides wished to lower the tone of the exchanges. Thus, Shim'on Peres welcomed the progress in the talks and talked about the need to insist primarily on the matter of the security zones. He said he regarded as less important the question of the observation stations, and said there is no need for even a token Israeli presence in Lebanon, because this would only attract fire at us needlessly.

Yitzhaq Rabin proposed increasing Haddad's forces and establishing as a fact his vital importance in the southern area. And as to the incorporation of Jordan, he suggested two alternatives: one, as part of the Camp David framework, but without this being binding on Husayn; and the other, according to Rabin, direct negotiations with Jordan without preconditions. At this point he added a remark on the settlements, saying: I would not hesitate to say that we are prepared to freeze the settlements for a limited period of some months, but only after Husayn joins the negotiations. This condition, or rather proposal, raised by Yitzhaq Rabin was rejected by the prime minister.

Two more sentences on the session: Yiga'el Hurvitz joined the opinion that it is necessary to concentrate on the 40-km strip in the south rather than insist on the observation stations, but he opposes a freeze on the settlements in Judaea and Samaria.

Yosi Sarid: I object to presenting any preconditions by Husayn, but he said right now the only element that is presenting preconditions is the Israeli Government.

In reply to the Alignment members, the prime minister said, and I quote: "When you say that the Israeli Government's positions are unacceptable to Husayn, I could tell you, based on information gleaned from the horse's mouth, that your positions, too, are unacceptable to him." This is Tazi Barqay, wishing you a happy Sabbath.

SYRIA EXPECTED TO STAY IN LEBANON

TA250645 Jerusalem THE JERSUALEM POST in English 25 Feb 83 p 1

[News analysis by Hirsh Goodman]

[Text] Israeli defence experts predict a long, hot summer in Lebanon. They have virtually given up hope that the Syrians will withdraw from Lebanon, and believe that the Syrians would rather have Israeli troops remain in southern Lebanon than agree to normalization between Lebanon and Israel.

There is a high probability of conflict, or sustained tension, between Syria and Israel by mid-spring, experts believe. The Syrians, experts believe do not foresee an immediate Israeli military action against them, and hence are under no pressure to leave. It is believed that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has concluded that he would prefer that Israel maintain a permanent military presence in south Lebanon than that it should withdraw on conclusion of a normalization treaty with Lebanon.
Syria has made this clear to the Lebanese, and its impact is being felt at the negotiating table. The reason for Syrian opposition to virtually any agreement with Lebanon is that Syria sees such an agreement as a death knell for Arab rejectionist states and a victory for those who have opted for the Camp David accords with Egypt.
According to expert opinion, the Syrians, who have three enlarged divisions in control of one third of Lebanon, are under no pressure. The Americans and the Saudi Arabians have had little influence on Al-Asad, and the Soviet commitment to Syria, as symbolized by the deployment of SAM-5's has become firmer.

Syria also has a great deal of leverage over Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil, primarily in the possibility of closing the Syrian-Lebanese border, which would be nearly fatal for Lebanon's economy. The Syrians know the Israeli public is in no mood for more casualties in Lebanon, and believe that weather conditions rule out an action now. Furthermore, Syrian assessments of the size of Israeli forces that could be effectively thrown into an attack at short notice have also led them to conclude that an attack is not feasible.

The Syrians are not averse to Israel's permanently inheriting the problems of the political instability in the south. This would lead to sizeable Israeli forces being tied down in the south. This would compensate Syria for the serious military imbalance since Israel signed a peace treaty with Egypt.

The worst thing that could happen to the Syrians, experts say, is an Israeli-Lebanese-American agreement at the talks. "But the chances of an agreement being reached that is acceptable to the Syrians is highly improbable," they say.
Because of these factors -- the ability of the Syrians to influence the Lebanese at the negotiating table, the lack of any real pressure on the Syrians, the deepened Soviet commitment to Syria, and Syria's conviction that Israel will not act militarily -- the experts are unanimous that the changes of a withdrawal from Lebanon in the foreseeable future are extremely low. But the probability of tension, and possible conflict, between Israel and Syria seems high.

Several hundred terrorists have returned to West Beirut, THE JERUSALEM POST learns. They are restablishing contacts and opening arms caches, despite "serious" attempts by the Lebanese authorities to prevent them from doing so. The main PLO infrastructure is in Palestinian institutions that remained active in the city after the PLO's expulsion last year. These include (Tsumud), the Palestinian industrial coordinating body that has factories, import agencies and financial concers; the Red Crescent; the Palestine Maritime Agency and welfare organizations. There are an estimated 7,000 terrorists in Lebanon, all in areas under Syrian control, their main centres are in Tripoli and the Biqa', but they have influence in other cities as well. In Ba'labakk, for example, an Iranian PLO unit has imposed a Khomeyni-type regime on large parts of the city, forbidding public smoking, insisting on modest dress and applying the same laws as those prevailing in Iran.

SOVIET SAM-5 SITES IN SYRIA 'OPERATIONAL'

TA270700 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Feb 83 p 1

[Report by defense correspondent Hirsh Goodman]

[Excerpt] The Soviet Union has completed the installation of four batteries of long-range SAM-5 anti-aircraft missiles on Syrian territory, it has been reliably learned. The four batteries, each with six independent launchers, are fully operational. The Soviet Union has never before deployed the strategic air defence missile system outside Russia. This is also the first time that the Syrians have allowed the Soviets to operate independent bases on their soil. The batteries -- two at Damur near Damascus, and two at Shinshar, near Homs -- are being manned ecxlusively by Russians, believed to number several hundred. No Syrian soldier has ever been trained on the SAM-5, according to Western defence experts, nor is there any course including Syrians under way. There are currently an estimated 4,500 Soviet advisers in Syria, active with all arms of the Syrian Army.

'SECRET' SYRIAN-JORDANIAN CONTACTS REPORTED

TA260711 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Text] Secret contacts have begun between Jordan and Syria to improve bilateral relations. Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari has learned that the United States is encouraging these contacts in order to remove the obstacles from the formation of a link between Jordan and the PLO. Philip Habib may raise this issue in his talks with Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus. Our correspondent has learned from Arab sources that if these contacts prove successful, Mudar Badran's government in Jordan may be replaced by a new government headed by Zayd ar-Rifa'i. Badran is in conflict with Syria while Ar-Rifa'i has maintained good relations with Syria since the days when friendly terms prevailed between Amman and Damascus.

REAGAN PROPOSAL BELIEVED AIMED AT SOVIETS

TA251349 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 25 Feb 83 p 3

[Report by Hagay Eshed]

[Text] President Reagan's declarations on granting guarantees to secure Israel's northern border after the IDF withdraws from Lebanon is actually an offer of a U.S. umbrella against a Soviet threat, not against terrorist acts or Katyusha fire aimed at Israel, Jerusalem observers believe.

The observers think this presidential declaration should be taken as a reaction to the stationing of the SAM-5's manned by the Soviets in Syria. This system constitutes a strategic threat to the Israeli Air Force, but it is also dangerous to the reconnaissance and fighter aircraft of the 6th Fleet, cruising near the Lebanese and Syrian coasts.

The stationing of the missiles demands some sort of U.S. reaction. These observers think the President's announcement reflects the existence of a deterrent balance between the U.S. military presence in Lebanon, in the form of the Marines, and Soviet military presence in Syria. The Americans do not usually furnish Israel with information on their contacts with the Soviets on such issues, so that it was impossible to ascertain the observers' evaluation.

They believe that Reagan's declaration could not have been made without having been preceded by highest level contacts between Washington and Moscow to establish certain "rules of the game" and in order to avoid dangerous friction between the two superpowers' military forces, stationed at such great density in a "gray area" over which there are no binding, limiting agreements.

This applies both to the Americans and the Soviets themselves, and to the danger of their being dragged into reaction and operation by the Israelis and the Syrians on Lebanese territory, something like "the tail wagging the dog."

The observers believe that the Reagan declaration should constitute the tip of an iceberg in regard to American-Soviet understanding on the urgent need for an Israeli-Syrian "disengagement" and for turning Lebanon into a buffer zone between those two forces. Such an understanding, if it was really achieved, should be founded on Soviet acceptance of an American dealing with the buildup of the Lebanese Army in the next few years, assuming that the Lebanese Government will be in any case under Syrian influence. Removing the IDF and the PLO from the buffer zone is aimed at preventing a chance conflagration from occurring, knowing that it would lead to intersuperpower involvement.

Such a U.S.-Soviet understanding could calm Israel down with respect to the Soviet threat, but it could also serve as a source of apprehension in other respects. First, Israel is no partner to such an understanding. Second, it cannot view any U.S. guarantee as a substitute, but as complementing independent guarantees based on the IDF's power and on the security arrangements between Israel and the Lebanese Government and all the other forces operating on Lebanese soil. Most importantly, the degree of Soviet control over the Syrians and the various PLO organizations is not clear with regard to their simultaneous withdrawal with the IDF from Lebanon, nor it is clear whether the Soviets would either want or be able to prevent Syrian provocation under the double Soviet-U.S. umbrella.

ARENS COMMENTS ON ASSUMING DEFENSE PORTFOLIO

TA251936 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1830 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Interview with Professor Moshe Arens by political correspondent Yoram Ronen at Ben-Gurion airport on 25 February -- videotaped]

[Excerpt] [Question] Will Minister Sharon's membership in the Ministerial Committee for Security and Lebanese Affairs not disturb you in the fulfillment of your post?

[Answer] I assume that it will not disturb me at all. On the contrary, Minister Sharon is a man with experience that is unrivaled and I assume that he will make a great contribution to the discussions in the committees in which he will be a member.

[Question] Nevertheless, will such an experienced man as he not be able to impose his views, to use his experience and his great knowledge of security affairs, to attack you from behind?

[Answer] I have just spent a year in the United States, but when I left Israel a year ago, Israel was a democracy and I assume that it is still the same; and the Cabinet sessions, I presume -- I am a new member, I have not yet participated -- are conducted democratically. If it comes to a vote, everyone has a vote: Minister Sharon has a vote. I will have a vote, and all the other Cabinet members will have a vote.

[Question] Mr Arens, one of the first things on the agenda in your post as defense minister is the appointment of a new chief of staff and the appointment of several new IDF generals. Do you think that these changes will be implemented in the near future?

[Answer] I cannot tell you, I have just now trod on the soil on Eretz Yisra'el. I must go to the ministry. I need to sit with the chief of staff, meet with the senior staff. Then we will be able to discuss this.

[Question] Let us move on the Israeli-U.S. relations, Professor Arens, in which you are certainly better informed. The day you left Washington President Reagan spoke about a homeland for the Palestinians. Does this worry you?

[Answer] Of course it worries me. It is true that I understand that in the administration they are saying that there was no intention to bring in anything new and I understand that those remarks were not made in a written statement, but at a meeting with journalists. Nonetheless, I would say that that shows a mood which, in my opinion, is not realistic and, as I see it, it will not contribute to dealing with those problems we would like to solve in cooperation with the United States.

[Question] Professor Arens, do you think that there is now a chance for the worse, a return to Jimmy Carter's time, since it was he who in fact invented that term homeland for the Palestinians?

[Answer] I would not rush to say such things, especially since the remarks were not made from a written statement. I suggest that we wait a while, let us think, hear explanations. After that we will assess the situation.

[Question] Do you expect U.S. pressure on us to rapidly conclude the talks with Lebanon in order to permit King Husayn to join the negotiations?

[Answer] The pressure exists to hurry up and conclude the negotiations, in that the Americans have let us know over the last few months, that they would like the negotiations to be conducted more rapidly. I do not see proposals by them that could make a real contribution to accelerating the negotiations.

[Question] Professor Arens, after speaking with President Reagan and Secretary of State Shultz in the last few days, do you have the impression that King Husayn will really join the talks in days or weeks?

[Answer] Here, too, I cannot say that I am sure that the American evaluation on this is reliable or correct. They are certainly influenced by what they would like to happen. They want him to join and so here and there you hear optimism that he will yet join, without anyone being able to name a date, but I am not sure that they know becaue it may be that the king himself has not yet decided.

[Question] With all the latest talk that has been heard recently from President Reagan and the secretary of state, do they not intend to signal King Husayn and the PLO that the United States will stand by their side in the negotiations?

[Answer] I think that it is their policy, to signal to King Husayn in this form in order to make things easier for him to enter the negotiations. So far the signals have not succeeded and I do not know whether they will succeed ultimately in bringing him in.

ARENS CLARIFIES STATEMENTS ON SYRIAN THREAT

TA251149 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Excerpts] Moshe Arens' plane has just landed so we will go over to our correspondent Shmu'el Tal at the Ben-Gurion Airport. He is one of the people receiving Moshe Arens who has arrived and is now holding a news conference.

[Question] Mr Arens, can you explain what you said to the LOS ANGELES TIMES, what the LOS ANGELES TIMES quoted you as having said about the possibility of a deterrent strike at Syria?

[Answer] They quoted the remarks incorrectly and anyone who took the trouble to read the article also saw in the article itself that what I said was not what was in the headline. When I was asked: Could it happen that Israel would ever use a preemptive strike or move, I said that if, as has already happened in the past, we found ourselves in a situation where the country's very existence was exposed to danger, it is to be assumed that we would take the appropriate steps.

ALGERIA

BENDJEDID, KING HASSAN HOLD TALKS AT BORDER

NC261420 Paris AFP in English 1409 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Text] Rabat, Feb 26 (AFP) -- King Hassan II of Morocco and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid met on Algerian territory today near the Moroccan border, reliable sources said here today.

The meeting, which took place in the village of Akid Loutfi, marked the first time the heads of state have met since the two countries broke off diplomatic relations in March 1976.

The source said that the two heads of state discussed normalising relations, which in the past seven years have been soured because of the Western Sahara conflict, in which the Algerian-backed Polisario front is fighting Morocco.

Today's meeting, which had not been officially announced, was the result of several months' preparation by King Hassan's advisers, Ahmed Bensouda and Reda Guedira, on the one hand, and Algerian Foreign Minister Taleb Ibrahimi, on the other.

Tunisia and Saudi Arabia had also played an intermediary role.

The source said that King Hassan would return to Morocco later today.

APS Reports 26 Feb Meeting

LD271634 Algiers APS in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] Algiers, 27 Feb (APS) -- A spokesman for the Algerian Foreign Ministry today reasserted that there are no differences [khilaf] between Algeria and Morocco on the question of Western Sahara, which is an issue concerning the liquidation of colonialism that exists between our brothers the Saharans and the Moroccans. Algeria has always stressed its readiness to bring about rapprochement beweeen our brothers in Western Sahara and Morocco and to find a solution which conforms with the established right of the Saharan people to self-determination and independence. Algeria is confident that such a solution will restore peace to the region and will open the prospects for cooperation at the level of the highest ideal, that is, construction of a greater Maghreb.

Tbis was the spirit under which the president and party secretary, General Chadli Bendjedid, met with King Hassan II on Saturday 26 February 1983 at the Algerian-Moroccan border, bearing in mind the fact that contacts have not ceased on various levels since 1978.

LIBYA

FOREIGN LIAISON BUREAU REJECTS SCHULTZ' 'LIES'

LD261648 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1530 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Text] Tripoli, 26 Feb (JANA) -- The Foreign Liaison Bureau in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah issued a statement today in which it refutes the allegations and the lies which United States Secretary of State George Shultz repeats against the Jamahiriyah, and in it lists several facts which refute the latter.

Here is the text of the statement:

The Foreign Liaison Bureau noted the continued allegations and fabrications by U.S. Secretary of State Shultz concerning the Jamahiriyah and its attitudes toward its neighboring sister countries, despite the worldwide condemnation of the American provocations and threats addressed to the Jamahiriyah. The Foreign Liaison Bureau, while pointing in particular to the latest statements by the United States secretary of state at his press conference in Atlanta, Georgia, wants to point out the following facts:

The statements by Shultz confirm the intention of the Reagan administration to impose the American hegemonist plans on the whole Arab region. And seeing that the Jamahiriyah is the bastion of resistance aimed at aborting these plans, it has begun fabricating justifications in order to shake the steadfastness of this citadel. The Libyan people, however, confident of the justice of its cause and the firmness of its stand will not be scared by the American military provocations or the statements by Shultz, the misguided dog barking on the sidelines of events.

The Libyan people, having paid a high price for the affirmation of their freedom and sovereignty, do not accept any American intrusion [tattafful] designed to shake their solidarity inclinations or to affect their relations with heir Arab brothers, with whom they are linked by the same estiny and with whom they work to achieve the same ambitions. And on this bases, they consider any American attempt to interfere in their relations with their brothers in Egypt, the Sudan, or others, as interference in an internal Arab affair on a par with interference [in the relations] between the American states f Alaska and California or between the Yugoslav republics Serbia and Croatia. The continuation by America of the policy of arrogance and threats to use force confirm that the American Administration has forgotten the lesson of Vietnam with its defeats and harshness. We say that unless this administration works to rectify the dangers of the policies of force and stops playing the role of gendarme in the Arab region, the Libyan people's will to challenge is capable of putting an end to this American onslaught.

LEADER RECEIVES SOLIDARITY CABLE FROM ETHIOPIA

LD251754 Tripoli JANA in English 1842 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada 12, Feb 24, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- The revolution's leader has received the following cable from Mengistu Haile Mariam, president of the Military Council and president of the Executive Committee of the working people's party of socialist Ethiopia.

"Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 Sept Revolution: We in socialist Ethiopia are closely following developments concerning acts of provocation and aggression by U.S. imperialism's armed forces, in cooperation with some reactionary regimes in the region, against the Jamahiriyah people. We are fully confident that the fraternal Libyan people under your brave leadership will, as in the past, foil the American conspiracies. I affirm to you that the people and government of socialist Ethiopia are in solidarity with their Libyan brothers and sisters in resisting American imperialist terrorism and arrogance.

Revolutionary greetings. Mengistu Haile Mariam."

'SUDANESE PARTY SOURCES' REPORT UPRISING IN SOUTH

NC270747 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] The Sudanese upper Nile area has witnessed an enormous uprising against the regime of lackey Numayri. A complete battalion of Sudanese forces has declared a revolution against the regime.

Sudanese democratic union party sources have stated in London that lackey Numayri has declared a maximum state of alert and rushed a force consisting of three battalions to the area of the uprising. The sources added that the revolution is spreading in all parts of the governorate, which is in southern Sudan.

MOROCCO

HASSAN RETURNS FROM MEETING WITH BENDJEDID

LD272115 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] King Hassan II returned last night from Fes by train from Oujda, where his majesty went yesterday morning.

King Hassan II met with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid yesterday at a point on the borders between the two countries. The two men had lengthy talks on the relations between the two countries and the situation in the region.

President Chadli Bendjedid and members of his delegation attended a luncheon given by the king at a tent erected on Moroccan soil. Later King Hassan II and the Algerian president had tea at a tent erected on Algerian soil.

When the king returned from the border area to Oujda to take the train and return to Fes, the masses of the eastern capital gave him a great popular welcome in affirmation of the great bonds which bind the people and the throne. The Ministry of State in charge of Foreign Affairs has affirmed that King Hassan II and President Chadli Bendjedid met on Saturday 26 February, 1983, on the borders between Oujda and the Algerian village of Akid Loutfi. The talks between the two heads of state covered all matters of interest to both countries and particularly the question of the normalization of relations between Morocco and Algeria.

With regard to the Saharan question, King Hassan II reiterated Morocco's adherence to the Nairobi resolutions and his definite wish to implement them as soon as possible. He expressed his pleasure that the two sides are anxious to safeguard the OAU and are constantly determined to give their support to the Arab cause and the building of the Arab Maghreb.

BOUCETTA ON PLO PRESENCE IN ARAB DELEGATIONS

LD251424 Rabat MAP in French 1000 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Text] London, 25 Feb (MAP) -- In a statement to the Rabat correspondent of ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT published in London, Moroccan Minister of State in Charge of Foreign Affairs M'hamed Boucetta said the "seven member committee" set up by the latest Arab League summit will visit London in mid-March. Regarding PLO representation, the minister made it clear that the question had been settled from the moment of setting up the seven member committee following the Fes Arab summit by the decision not to send PLO representatives to those capitals where this would prove difficult. It is based on this that the PLO did not participate in the talks held in Washington, the Moroccan foreign minister stated.

Mr Boucetta added that it had been agreed that the PLO would not be represented during the London stage of the committee of seven's tour but that the chairmanship of the delegation is working towards the goal of representation for the Palestinian people during the visit in the British capital and this with the full agreement of the PLO following the withdrawal by the British Government of its memorandum, which was unacceptable both as regards its presentation and its contents.

An agreement was reached as regards the visit to London of the seven member committee with the participation of a Palestinian representative -- not necessarily a PLO leadership member. The PLO has approved this solution and it is on this basis that the committee of seven will visit London, the Moroccan minister of state for foreign relations indicated.

As regards a minisummit of the member countries of the committee, Mr Boucetta said that the delegations would hold a meeting at the foreign ministers' level after the visit to London in order to assess the results of the visits to the five capitals. Only then will it be decided whether or not it is necessary to convene a summit. He denied that a decision had already been taken on this issue.

As regards Moroccan-Algerian relations, Mr Boucetta said Morocco continues to be willing to respond to the mediation efforts of Arab and African brothers with a view to putting an end to the tension prevailing in the Arab Maghreb by means of a summit including His Majesty King Hassan II and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid or the creation of conditions favorable to the holding of such a meeting. Morocco has always desired an end to the artificial tension created around the Sahara question, said Mr Boucetta. He recalled that Morocco has expressed its viewpoint at all African, international, and Maghreb levels. "We hope that this matter will be solved so that we can build the Maghreb world," the minister of state said. As regards the possibility of a meeting between King Hassan II and President Chadli Bendjedid, the minister said there was nothing certain about it yet.

SUDAN

NUMAYRI ADDRESSES SSU CONGRESS 26 FEB

JN261142 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1035 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Text] Khartoum, 26 Feb (SUNA) -- President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, president of the republic and chairman of the SSU, announced today the opening of the Fourth National SSU Congress.

In a speech at the opening session, which began here at 1030 today, President Numayri welcomed the delegations of the friendly and fraternal countries and parties and expressed Sudan's appreciation and thanks for their participation in the congress.

President Numayri greeted former Senegalese President Leopold Sedar Senghor, the president of the league of African socialist parties, who is attending the conference and described him as the guitar of Africa and the promoter of the African spirit and African identity.

President Numayri said that Sudan will continue to remain a factor of peace, moderation, stability, and firmness in Africa and the Arab world.

President Numayri added: We shall continue to promote relations of good neighborliness, avoid interfering in the affairs of others, will not fabricate provocations, and will not give in to provocations, adventures, traitors, and conspirators. President Numayri said that Sudan will also continue to be a force of peace for settling disputes through peaceful means and that Sudan will oppose any attempts to harm Africa's unity or disrupt its security.

He added that Africa needs tractors more than tanks. It also needs to combat diseases instead of squandering its resources in disputes. He said that we want Africa to be the homeland of freedom, stability, unity, and prosperity.

PRESIDENT NUMAYRI RECEIVES 'ARAFAT 27 FEB

JN271108 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 27 Feb (SUNA) -- President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri received here this morning PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who arrived in the country last night accompanied by Executive Committee member Ahmad Sidqui ad-Dajani to participate in the SSU National Congress and to inform President Numayri of the results of the recent Palestine National Council's meetings in Algiers.

After the meeting, President Numayri accompanied the Palestinian leader to the Congress Hall where he was warmly welcomed by the SSU members who expressed the support of the Sudanese Government and people for the Palestinian people in their just struggle.

'Arafat Addresses SSU Congress

JN271157 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1050 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Feb (SUNA) -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has stated that he will never forget the warm reception that was accorded to our Palestinian fighters who had left Beirut.

Addressing the SSU Fourth National Congress session this morning 'Arafat said that the hospitality that Sudan had accorded the Palestinian fighters and the warm welcome it gave them means much. He added: In view of this warm welcome I can only reiterate that we shall proceed together toward victory.

'Arafat called for confidence that Sudan will meet the responsibility of removing the Zionist threat from the African Continent and will work for restoring African unity.

The Palestinian leader said: We have always been with the revolutionaries in their struggle against racial discrimination, colonialism, and imperialism, with Zimbabwe and Namibia and against racial discrimination in South Africa. He added: It is no coincidence that South Africa is Israel's ally.

He said: While sitting near President Numayri I would like to express appreciation for his revolutionary and brotherly stand when he exposed himself to danger during the shelling in Amman in an attempt to stop the fighting. I must mention this revolutionary, brotherly, and humanitarian stand to this congress because not only does it reflect a special relationship but it is the true expression of the relationship which binds the Palestinian and Sudanese people based on commoh hopes, destiny, and joint struggle against the enemy which not only seeks to control Palestine but also the other Arab countries.

'Arafat then reviewed the events in Beirut during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. He said: I never saw the enemy as weak and defeated as it was during the seige of Beirut.

SUNA REPORTS ANTI-LIBYAN PRESS CONFERENCE

JN261140 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1040 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Text] Khartoum, 26 Feb (SUNA) -- Dr Muhammad Yusaf al-Maqrif, secretary general of the National Front for the Salvation of Libya, has affirmed the continued struggle of the Libyan people against the dictatorship of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi and their determination to overthrow him and to regain their liberty.

In a press conference here yesterday, Dr al-Maqrif revealed that an attempted coup, which was led by officers Colonel Malyud ar-Rahimi and Colonel 'Ali Karmusi, took place in Libya in January. He said that Al-Qadhdhafi executed them as soon as they were discovered, and that hundreds of officers, soldiers, students, and professors were arrested.

Dr al-Maqrif denied that the National Front for the Salvation of Libya had a hand in hijacking a Libyan airliner last week. He said that they condemn all forms of terrorism directed against the innocent. However, in a statement distributed at the press conference, he called on international organizations not to interfere by handing over the hijackers of the Libyan plane to Col al-Qadhdhafi.

Al-Maqrif added that Libya is living in chronic economic crisis, to which Al-Qadhdhafi himself has admitted, because he has squandered the money of the Libyan people to buy arms and train mercenaries. He noted that there are 40 camps in Libya to train foreigners to carry out terrorist and sabotage acts in their countries and other countries. Dr al-Maqrif said that the farce of the Libyan General People's Congress held this month cannot conceal that Al-Qadhdhafi is ruling Libya by his whims and temperament with the help of members of his family and his tribe.

The secretary general of the National Front for the Salvation of Libya noted that Sudan ranks first in Col al-Qadhdhafi's program of sabotage and terrorism. He said that the reason for this is that Numayri is one of the few who are aware of Al-Qadhahafi's quality, status, and morbid imagination which harbors contempt for people, fear of them, and which conspires against them.

Dr al-Maqrif also revealed that the insane colonel sent a briefcase filled with explosives to the Palestine National Council meeting. He said that this was perhaps his gift for those who stood fast after he had called on them to commit suicide in Beirut.

He said that Al-Qadhdhafi's conspiracies have been aimed against more than eight African countries, including Uganda, Tanzania, Chad, Senegal, Egypt, and Ghana. He said although he has not achieved any of his objectives, he continues to scheme and contemplate a desert empire.

TUNISIA

BOURGUIBA RECEIVES 'ARAFAT, KHALAF, QADDUMI

LD242350 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Text] President and Mrs Habib Bourguiba today, Thursday, received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who was accompanied by strugglers Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] and Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] in the presence of Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi, and PLO representative in Tunisia Hasan Bal'awi.

Yasir 'Arafat acquainted President Bourguiba with the results of the 16th PNC session recently held in Algeria.

The president congratulated 'Arafat on the trust he constantly enjoyed from the Palestinian people, which manifested itself during the PNC meetings when he was reelected as chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. He also congratulated all members of the committee.

The grand struggler expressed his pleasure at the way the work of the PNC session was conducted in Algeria and at the spirit of democracy that reigned over it underlining the brother Palestinians' adherence to the essence of the Palestinian cause.

He expressed his admiration for the spirit of struggle that guides the Palestinian people in their struggle for their legitimate rights. He spoke in particular of the unity and cohesion and independence of decision that characterized the session, and of the positive results the PNC achieved, which took into consideration the current conditions and requisites of Palestinian action in the political and military fields with a view to bolstering right and justice and giving supremacy to international legitimacy over all other considerations.

President Bourguiba reiterated to 'Arafat and to the PLO Tunisia's constant stand alongside the fraternal Palestinian people in their struggle for dignity and strength and for the retrieval of their rights to return to their land, to self-determination, and to establish an independent state on their land.

LEFTIST FREED; ISLAMIC WEEKLY CONFISCATED

NC260802 Paris AFP in English 0727 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Text] Tunis, Feb 26 (AFP) -- Six leftists, including four professors, have been freed, a month after they were arrested for founding a political party called "The Rally of the Socialist Left".

They had been charged with "maintaining an unauthorized association," but an investigating magistrate ruled yesterday that there were insufficient grounds for prosecution, informed sources said.

Meanwhile, the seventh issue of a pro-Islamic weekly AL-HABIB (the friend) was confiscated Friday because it contained an article "likely to harm the good relations with a neighbouring brother country," officials announced. The country in question was Libya, unofficial sources said.

The content of the article was not discussed.

WESTERN SAHARA

SPOKESMAN COMMENTS ON HASSAN-BENDJEDID TALKS

NC262008 Paris AFP in English 1947 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Text] Algiers, Feb. 26 (AFP) -- The Polisario front has not informed of today's meeting between King Hassan II of Morocco and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid on Algerian territory today, a Polisario spokesman said here.

But Mohamed Ould Salek, foreign affairs spokesman of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic (SDAR) proclaimed by the Polisario in the Western Sahara, implied that his party favoured any initiative which might lead to direct contact between the SDAR and Morocco over the disputed territory.

"We are prepared to open negotiations with Morocco unconditionally," the SDAR spokesman said.

He added that there could not be lasting peace in the region "without a total evacuation by Moroccan troops of Saharan territory as defined by its colonial borders."

ETHIOPIA

20,000 REPORTEDLY DEPLOYED AGAINST ERITREANS

NC251658 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Text] A responsible official in Eritrea today said that Ethiopia has deployed 20,000 soldiers in the current battles between the Ethiopian forces and Eritrean rebels in the western area of Eritrea. This area is witnessing continuous battles between the forces of the two sides for the 7th successive day, in which the Ethiopian forces are seeking to repel the rebels and liquidate their bases in this area.

The Eritrean official appealed to the Arab states and the whole world to support the Eritrean people in their struggle and to give increasing attention to their question and struggle for self-determination.

Eritrean Front: 280 Ethiopians Killed

EA271556 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 0400 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] Tigre: The heroic TPLF [Tigrinya People's Liberation Front] fighters are heroically confronting an invading Dergue force, which is making repeated attempts to make a three-pronged advance on Tahtay Adiabo from (Adi Daero) and (Adi Nebri Id), inflicting heavy material and human losses. In fighting which lasted from 17-23 February, more than 280 Dergue soldiers were killed, over 400 were wounded, and 9 soldiers, 37 assorted weapons and a quantity of ammunition were captured by the TPLF.

This fascist Dergue force, supported by fighter planes and a mechanized battalion, is continuously being harassed by the TPLF and a number of its troops are defecting to join the TPLF. On 17 and 23 February, for example, 10 Tigraians who were forced by the Dergue to raise arms against their revolution, surrendered to the TPLF.

More on Battle Successes

EA271838 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigriyna 0400 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] (Sheraro): An enemy force of two brigades, supported by fighter planes, helicopters, armored vehicles, and 16 tanks, which was advancing from (Barentu) to provide rear support at (Sheraro) and (Adi Awalo) for its reactionary force deployed in Tigre against the Tigre People's Liberation-Front was attacked by Eritrean People's Liberation Front fighters before it reached (Sheraro) and was forced to retreat. In 46 hours of bloody fighting on 22 and 24 February, Dergue soldiers were killed and more than 250 wounded while three soldiers and 34 assorted weapons were captured.

In an effort to support its weakened forces, the enemy carried out a heavy bombardment using MIG-21 and MIG-23 fighters and helicopters. In their retreat to (Tokhombia) the enemy soldiers burnt down the house of (Mengistu Bashu) of (Habela), (Shilao), and killed a peasant, (Teklehaimanot Araya), in (Shambeko). They also looted over 600 goats and head of cattle.

The masses in (Shilalo) stood alongside our heroic people's forces and played an important role by providing ammunition and food. They also donated four head of cattle, two goats, ground sesame, a quantity of sugar, and other necessary items to be used for our comrades wounded in the battle.

SOMALIA

STATEMENT ON U.S., SOVIET BASES IN HORN

EA271945 Mogadishu International Service in Amharic 1400 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Text] A Somali Foreign Ministry spokesman today denied a statement by the Ethiopian black colonialist regime on the 23d of this month which alleged that the United States has a military base in the Somali Democratic Republic. The spokesman said that the Somali Government has never provided a military base to any foreign government, and added that this statement was a ploy by the Addis Ababa regime to conceal from the world the Soviet military bases in its country and in Eritrea, which the regime is colonizing. The statement said that the Soviet military bases in Dahlac, Assab, and Massaya were no secret from the world and added that Soviet military aircraft are using all the airfields in Abyssinia.

The statement from the Somali Foreign Ministry also disclosed that there are innumerable foreign bases in which there are military forces of the USSR, Cuba, and other Warsaw Pact countries. The statement added that the main aim of having Russian and other foreign military bases there to reinforce the colonialist Addis Ababa regime and to stifle the struggle of the Tigre, Eritrean, and Western Somali peoples who are fighting for their independence.

The statement pointed out that there is no doubt that the Russian military bases in Ethiopia and on the Eritrean coast and the foreign forces there will prejudice Africa's peace and stability.

On human rights, the spokesman said that the Addis Ababa regime killed 30,000 people in the period 1974-78 and murdered 10,000 people in 1978 alone. The spokesman also cited a report by Amnesty International, the human rights organization, and said that the Abyssinia regime had children less than 12 years old boiled in oil and pushed from rooftops. The statement also disclosed that there are about 1.5 million refugees in the Somali Democratic Republic who have fled from Abyssinia and the lands it is colonizing. The statement disclosed that the Addis Ababa regime is receiving aid from the terrorist Al-Qadhdhafi in its futile expansionist aims, adding that Al-Qadhdhafi is well known for his world terrorism, interference in the affairs of independent countries, and plots to overthrow governments. The spokesman said that the Mengistu and Al-Qadhdhafi regimes, in addition to being puppets serving foreign forces, wasting their peoples' lives, acting as terrorists and carrying out Soviet strategic aims, are also a grave threat.

The spokesman called on the freedom-loving world to condemn the Addis Ababa regime and force it to allow the people it is colonializing to decide their own future. The spokesman also called for condemnation of the bases of foreign forces in Abyssinia and Eritrea, adding that the foreign forces and military bases in the area are a threat to the existence and independence of the governments in the Horn of Africa.

GHANA

JERRY RAWLINGS 24 FEB ADDRESS TO NATION

AB242205 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Address to nation by head of state Jerry Rawlings -- live]

[Excerpts] Countrymen and women: In a few days we shall be celebrating the 26th anniversary of Ghana's independence. It was on the 6th of March 1957 when Britain declared this nation a fully sovereign and independent state capable of managing all its affairs meritoriously.

As the historic date, the 6th of March, draws nearer, it will be useful to reflect a little bit on what makes a nation a true and an independent one. When we talk of the independence of a nation, we do not only mean the transfer of administrative power from the former foreign rulers to the local people. Gentlemen and women, it means equally the ability of each and everyone to govern his own desires and actions, to shun selfishness, and to do what is right within his own society -- the moral revolution, as we called it in '79. It is only with such people can a nation be really free and independent.

Next week we will remember the death of Sergeant (Adjete) on 28 February 1948, one of those free spirits who laid down his life to bring freedom closer to others. Do we have men of such qualities today? How do you think to further the revolutionary process which will bring social justice and real independence to the people?

I'm happy to say that we do have them, most of them however unknown. They are the quiet ones working restlessly and selflessly, often at considerable sacrifice, to build this nation and make it a better place to live in.

From all parts of the territory come encouraging reports of the efforts of the people's defense committee [PDC] and workers defense committees [WDC] making positive contributions to improve and transform their localities and increase efficiency and reduce expenditure in their workplaces. Let me mention a few, just a few. In Accra New Town, for instance, the mountain of refuse which forced the experimental school to close down has been removed. In South New Town the old and unsafe pipelines have been relaid. (Lema), long famous for its dirt and its lawbreakers, is taking on a new look. (Manove's) PDC has provided a 16-room house and two storerooms for returnees from Nigeria.

At (Anyenam) the dynamic leadership of the PDC secretary, Mr (Abuadje), has set a number of development projects in motion. At Nyankpala, the northern region, the rehabilitation of local roads and dams by the PDC has made life easier for the people. At (?Konfokrom), near (Ateibubu), the PDC has gone to work on a dam to provide water for rice irrigation, drinking water for people and fish farmers. The WDC at Tema Textiles Limited took a decision to reduce their salaries to help the company out of its present financial difficulties.

The spirit of communal development has been actively reawakened by the PDC and a number of sanitary and development projects have also been initiated and its chairman, a gentleman by the name of Miller (Tey), in one of our villages, working arm in arm with the police PDC secretary, a gentleman by the name of Corporal Alex Osinini, initiating a lot in the interest of the people. Time will not allow me to mention all the efforts some of our executives of the PDC's are making in every part of the country, but suffice it to say we are keeping the records straight here in a very mild manner. There were many more as I said and recognized, working without praise and without being singled out, because they believe in the cause and they do understand what it means. Their reward is the knowledge that they have done what is right.

But there is another side to the picture. Just as a drop of ink can spoil a clean sheet of paper, so there are several black spots on this page of the revolution.

Those who for years have seen those above them in [words indistinct] making of their power and positions to seek their own selfish advantage can hardly be blamed if, on suddenly finding themselves with power in their hands, they react by using it in the same way that they have seen others use it in the past. But how long can this go on? But more than a year has gone by, a year in which we have been trying to show that this revolutionary process is not just political or social or economic. It is also a moral revolution. It is not meant to transfer privilege, favoritism, and selfishness from one group of people to another; it is meant to do away with that. It is sad to see some people, too many people, still have not understood this.

One of the most widespread ways in which this lack of understanding shows itself is in the continuing unfairness in the distribution of scarce goods and commodities, both locally produced and imported. It is natural that a worker in a factory or firm producing or distributing items such as beer, fish, sugar, rice, textiles, or other commodities which are in short supply should expect to have some of them for his own use. This is especially so when wages are low and the cost of living is high. But this has developed to an unreasonable degree, to the point where these actions of ours are subverting the economic process we are heading towards.

Much as the government can understand the desire of workers in these sensitive areas to find a way to supplement their pay, this is no excuse to indulge in acts which deprive others of their fair share of available goods and jeopardize the economy, as I said. Therefore, a new law is ready for signature tomorrow to ensure that workers and management get a fair and reasonable amount of the goods which they produce or distribute while at the same time making it illegal the practice whereby workers are given (unsold) products from their respective factories and workplaces, whether as part of their entitlement or as bonuses or as allocations or incentives supplied through their local unions or WDC's.

Anyone who gives or accepts or takes any product in the way I have spoken about will be guilty of an offense and will be prosecuted. The WDC, which includes all workers and management of such organizations, shall agree upon reasonable quantities of goods sufficient for the workers' own needs, with due consideration of the supply of goods and the nation's requirements. These goods will be sold them through their own consumer cooperative shops. The reasonableness of the quantities to be agreed upon will depend on the amount and frequency of such goods available to the general public. It is unethical for workers to satisfy their greed at the expense of other workers and other noble producers.

Let us realize that if we show reasonableness and moderation in our demands, which is the moral core of this revolution, then despite the shortages which we are facing at present, which you know very well, we can live modestly but decently. We should all be imbued by the spirit of nationalism and stop degrading ourselves by scrambling for advantage at the expense of others.

On imported goods, I have to say that the idea of (?more) purchases is necessary in our present circumstances. It is true that the Ghana National Petroleum Agency has recorded some reasonable amount of profit, but this profit should be looked at in terms of the bulk of goods they handle and the general turnover.

One of the questions the man on the street will ask is why does the government appear reluctant to import sufficient goods in sufficient quantity to go round. The reason is that the position of our foreign exchange has made it really necessary to continue to control imports into the country in order to make the best possible use of the little which we have. In considering the issue of import control. one wonders whether in the past care was taken to find out what our priorities were. The Provisional National Defense Council has been trying to bring order into the system by not purchasing indiscriminately. In short, we are trying to distinguish frivolous items from the basic needs of the people.

A look at prerevolution imports into the country of both raw materials and finished goods clearly shows that items like beer, cigarettes, luxurious cars, and certain types of electrical appliances took the greater part of our foreign exchange whilst our foreign missions, official trips abroad, and business tours by business executives also ate deeply into our foreign exchange. Fellow countrymen, this is what the revolution seeks to reverse in order that we shall be able to procure sugar, rice, milk, drugs, etc. in large quantities for our people and at the same time keep on paying for the debt incurred by our predecessors. With this, we believe that the interest of all the people will be catered for.

I will not take up too much of your time. The 6th of March is very close, when you and I will sit down and examine, when you and I will sit down and listen to how I feel, to what I have to say about our revolution, for us to establish the conscience and what the yardstick, the judgment of what is right or wrong for today.

Fellow countrymen, let me just tell you something very interesting now in case you do not understand it. My reason and one of the main reasons why I wanted to move in 1979 on the 15th May which led to the 4th June, one of the main reasons was because I wanted to prevent the breakingup of the moral fibre of this country. It was leading to it. One has to prevent it. What do I mean by that if you still do not understand? The moral fiber, that is, I keep on telling you that you are a victim of your purity; your faults and actions are so pure that you can very easily become a victim of a manipulator, of an oppressor, of somebody with a vicious instinct of capitalism.

If you do not understand me, let me demonstrate it to you in a very graphical way. The 15th May and 4th June 1979 came about. [shout] Your positive response, because your moral purity had so much been broken. [fragment as heard] What did the PNP [People's National Party] do after the handover? They needed to break your moral purity, and how did they do it? And why they did it, by having to allow you as workers in your various factories where you produce these items to allocate to yourself some of these goods, knowing very well the cost of living was so high? You will end up outside your gates, outside your factories selling these items at kalabule [profiteering] prices, and the minute you do that, your moral strength, your right to criticize somebody who is doing wrong, would have been broken and tomorrow you will no longer be able to point a finger at somebody who is doing wrong, because you ended up doing it too.

Do you not see the psychological importance? They needed to kill that purity of yours. These are some of the reasons why I told some of my colleagues or those with whom I came into contact why a second 4th June, like 31 December, was going to be very difficult, because the moral purity of this country has been broken. In other words, the art of doing wrong has become the law of the day. And if you in your factories cannot stop a WDC executive who is close to you, who is doing wrong, why on earth or how can you end up stopping some parliamentarians or somebody sitting up there who is enjoying the institutional protections from the colonial order? The police, the military, everybody is there, like the GIHOC [Ghana Industrial Holding Company] affair.

Today that parliamentarian or that man is not alien to you, speaking a strange language, sitting in Parliament House enjoying institutional protection. But he is the very man next to you, whom you have chosen to be your executive PDC man to represent you. And he is doing wrong. I mean, can you justify, can you explain to me, can you explain to me why you cannot stop him, why you could not stop him? But I said these things were deliberately orchestrated to break your moral purity.

Since 31 December, we have made references to citizens, the people of Ghana, fellow countrymen, fellow countrywomen, the masses. But we have made more reference to the worker because we justifiably want to assume that when we say the worker, we are talking about a working man who produces. And here again, how many of us can truly say that we are involved in productive ventures? How many of us can actually justify the pay we collect each month? We end up with some of these items, selling them outside earning so much money. I know so many of you who are enjoying having more cedis in your pockets than even some of our medical doctors.

A revolution is something very noble. The aim is very noble. And here we are attempting to get to that noble objective with ignoble actions. I am not saying that... Look, certain situations in the life of man call for ignoble actions, like the action of 15 May, like the action of June 4, like 31 December. There is no way you and I would have been in this position if we had not taken up arms. There is no way you and I would have won our power through the ballot box.

Fellow countrymen, I don't think I should take up any more of your time. On 6 March I hope to be here again to put across to you a few of the matters of national concern. But most important of all, I would like to share with you how I see the ultimate structure of the National Defense Council [NDC] when the people of this country will have ended up fully determining their own destiny through the NDC. Because the PNDC will not be there forever; I can say it is provisional. I am but one person, one single individual. It is the same with the other Council members. We cannot go on in the way we have been doing while others are taking advantage of us. This is the only opportunity we have of restoring economic and social dignity back into this country.

Some of us seem to have a very short memory. Of all that was being orchestrated right after the handover in '79, we do not want to have any such situation again because it can only lead to the loss of our right to determine our own destiny. You may be thinking of today now, but I wonder how many of you realize that you are only subverting tomorrow. We are creating institutions and structures that would make it possible for us to control today so that tomorrow will be the consequence of today controlled by Ghanaians.

This is why I want us, you and I, to sit down and truly examine what we offer this nation each day, in our offices, in our factories, or in the fields -- what time we arrive there, when we leave. Let us look back and examine what have we concretely put in each day, each week, and each month as the time comes for you to collect your pay. There had never been a time in the history of this country when the central government had ended up moving its people more than we find ourselves today.

We are asking for your physical commitment, concrete action from you. When I say concrete action, I am talking sacrifices, I am talking about productivity. The time has come when this country cannot be saved through such catalytic individual actions, but it calls for a selfless effort; it calls for having to get together; it calls for having... Yes, I am saying it again. I wonder how many of you understand it.

Listen, what I am saying is this: If a vehicle is parked, a very heavy vehicle, if 1,000 of us are lined up, and we have to get to this vehicle and attempt to push it on by one uphill and not downhill, and not on level ground, we will not be able to. It calls for the collective efforts of all of us having to get behind it and push till we get to the apex. Then when it reaches level ground or the time comes when we will be sliding downhill, then we can all board it. You cannot do it alone. The nation can only do it alone. The nation can only be saved through a collective action.

Other nations have probably been fortunate -- it's unfair to have to say this but that is the reality -- have been fortunate to have to realize the need for collective action, because they have been forced into having to fight battles. They have been forced into wars. Are you and I waiting to be attacked before we understand what we are talking about -- by revolution, by sacrifices, by discipline? No. Use your imagination. I told you before, nobody can save this country and nobody will. Because when this country saves itself, that salvation will get outside the borders, will go beyond the borders of Ghana. And I am repeating it. Some of you don't seem to understand.

We changed certain structures to make it possible for us to accumulate a few cedis for the government to enable us initiate our mobilization programs. Today it is this group from this place. Tomorrow it is another lot from here; the day after it is someone else. Someone is taking his bonus; someone is taking this; someone is collecting. Yes, everybody is cheating into his own coffers; everybody is asking for so much so that the little we were able to accumulate has ended up in the hands of private -- I mean of certain -- workers.

Fellow countrymen, some of us are bearing an unnecessary proportion of this sacrifice. It is getting too much. You will have to join hands. You will all have to put in your efforts. You will all have to make the necessary sacrifices. Well, that is all for tonight. Good night.

LIBERIA

DOE TO MEET STEVENS, TOURE IN CONAKRY 28 FEB

AB270720 Paris AFP in English 0344 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] Monrovia, Feb. 27 (AFP) -- Liberia has accepted a Guinean proposal for settlement of its dispute with Seirra Leone, Liberian leader Samuel Doe said here Saturday after talks with President Ahmed Sekou Toure. Mr Toure had proposed a meeting at summit level of the Mano River Union, an economic community grouping Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, Mr Doe said. The venue would be the Guinean capital, Conakry, and Mr Doe said he would go there on Monday.

The dispute with Sierra Leone erupted on Tuesday when a Freetown newspaper charged that Mr Doe had killed his wife Nancy after she allegedly tried to poison him. Liberia banned all air, land and sea travel to and from Sierra Leone and moved 2,000 troops to the border. It called for an apology from Sierra Leone.

President Toure stopped over briefly here and in Freetown yesterday on his way home from a four-day working visit to Zaire.

ANGOLA-RSA TALKS PRODUCE NO 'POSITIVE RESULTS'

NC261918 Paris AFP in English 1901 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Text] Luanda, Feb 26 (AFP) -- The second round of talks between South Africa and Angola on Namibia have not produced positive results, according to Angolan Interior Minister Alexandre Rodrigues "Tito". But the minister who headed the Angolan delegation at last Thursday's talks in Cape Verde, said that the Angolan Government has prepared to continue the dialogue and that the Government would not "turn its back" on talks with Pretoria. The first round of direct negotiations was held in Cape Verde on December 7 and 8.

"The conversations will continue," Lieutenant-Colonel Rodrigues said, adding that the first round had been held at Pretoria's request during which South Africa had set out its proposals. He said that Angola had in turn produced counter-proposals which defended Angolan interests and those of the South-West African People's Organisation, the Namibian nationalist movement. The minister said that while progress had been hoped for at the second round of talks following the Angolan counter-proposals, South Africa decided to reduce the status of its delegation. "This policy of carrot and stick aims to test our attitude. We think that the South Africans were simply trying to find out our position and we can understand through their attitude that they are playing for time," he said.

The minister denied that the government was negotiating with South Africa because it was tired by the war, or because of the precarious economic situation, or advances by the rebel South African-backed UNITA movement. He said Angola was negotiating to settle problems related to the tension on the Namibian-Angolan border in an attempt to resolve the question of Namibian independence. He said Luanda had the duty of supporting the South-West Africa People's Organisation -- the Namibian nationalist movement -- and added that Angola did not discuss a ceasefire with the South Africans "because Luanda had not declared war on Pretoria.

"We must find a process which would allow us to reach a truce beginning in February in order to see United Nations Resolution 435 on Namibia implemented," he said. "And when we speak of truce or ceasefire, we mean that this initiative must be negotiated between South Africa and SWAPO," he went on. The minister said that Angola had no intention of substituting itself for SWAPO.

He also denied rumours according to which the negotiations with Pretoria would lead to SWAPO being crushed in exchange for a settlement of the armed conflict in Cunene Province, southern Angola, and of the UNITA problem. "Angola does not accept any exchange between SWAPO and UNITA," he said. He said the Angolan Government had not begun the negotiations with South Africa primarily to end UNITA's activities. "If the South Africans do not mention UNITA, we do not need to mention it," he said.

Mr Rodrigues said the Angolan delegation that attended Thursday's talks was made up of Deputy Defence Minister Antonio dos Santos Franca and Deputy Foreign Minister Venancio de Moura.

Angolan Minister Comments

EA271533 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0700 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] Interior Minister Lieutenant Colonel Alexandre Rodrigues Tito, member of the MPLA-Labor Party Political Bureau, met national news media representatives at party headquarters in Luanda yesterday and discussed with them the first and second meetings at Ilha do Sal, Cape Verde, between delegations from Angola and South Africa.

Lt. Col. Alexandre Rodrigues Tito said Angola negotiated with South Africa, but not because of the war, the precarious economic situation, or the impetuous advance of the puppet gangs, as alleged by the Western press. Angola, he went on, has often attended negotiations with South Africa to discuss border aggression and to find ways of settling the Namibian independence problem, adding that our country feels duty-bound to create conditions for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435, which, as far as we are concerned, and as stated by the UN secretary general, is still a valid document needing no amendment.

The interior minister gave the assurance that our country has always confirmed its support for SWAPO. He stressed that Angola had at no time during the Namibian independence negotiations tried to find an alternative for SWAPO, as claimed by certain sections of the foreign press. The Angolan official underlined SWAPO's efforts to settle the Namibian problem, adding that SWAPO took a very revolutionary stand when it met Namibian internal parties in Geneva, Switzerland, which meant the SWAPO is prepared to contest elections with such organizations.

Regarding the first meeting between delegations of the two countries in December, last year [words indistinct] (?exchange of eight South African prisoners in our custody), the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435 and the withdrawal of South African troops from our country.

Angola thinks UN Security Council Resolution 435 will never be implemented as long as there is a South African presence in our territory, the Angolan interior minister said. He stressed that, when the [word indistinct] installed in Namibia, that is, when the process of the implementation of Resolution 435 starts, Angola will have to (?have control) over its borders.

Alexandre Rodrigues Tito said the second meeting had no positive results. It (?was not as important as the) first one because of the low level of South African representation. He added that the meeting was supposed to discuss Angola's counter-proposals presented at the first meeting and should have lead to the signing of a cease-fire between South Africa and SWAPO, to become effective from 1 February.

Angola does not have to sign any cease-fire agreement with the South Africans, the interior minister said, as the cease-fire must be signed between Pretoria and SWAPO. As for us, he stressed, South Africa must halt its hostilities against Angola. It must withdraw its troops from our territory. UN Security Council Resolution 435 cannot be implemented as long as the South African troops remain in our country.

Last December, South Africa sent Foreign Minister Pik Botha, Defense Minister Magnus Malan, and the deputy foreign minister represented by director general in the South African Foreign Ministry (Angles van der Elssen). The Angolan delegation, Lt. Col. Alexandre Rodrigues Tito, Interior Minister and member of the party Political Bureau, included Colonel Antonio dos Santos Franca Ndalo, who is also a Political Bureau member, and Venancio de Moura, deputy foreign minister. This Angolan representation was unchanged for both meetings, but lack of South African high-ranking representative at the latest meeting compelled us to send only the Angolan deputy foreign minister to attend it.

By not fulfilling what was agreed by the two sides at the first meeting, Pretoria is applying a carrot and stick policy and (?putting) our attitude (?to the test), but Angola has always shown good will, Lt. Col. Alexandre Rodrigues Tito said in conclusion.

ANGOLA

COMMUNIQUE ON PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY SESSION

EA251358 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Text] The sixth ordinary session of the People's Assembly ended in Luanda late yesterday afternoon. Following is the final communique of the meeting:

Under the chairmanship of Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the MPLA-Labor Party, president of the People's Republic of Angola and the People's Assembly, the People's Assembly met in its sixth ordinary session 22-24 February. The session discussed and approved the items included on the agenda, in particular the opening speech delivered by Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos which should receive from the state bodies not only maximum attention but also analysis and safeguarding of the principles contained therein, in order not to lose sight of guidelines from the supreme party bodies, (?particularly) the decisions of the extraordinary meeting of the Central Committee.

In order to implement the emergency programs, the session decided that there will be indirect monitoring and control of these plans.

That was the text of the final communique of the sixth ordinary session of the People's Assembly, which took place 22-24 February in Luanda under the chairmanship of Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

SWAPO COMMUNIQUE CLAIMS SUCCESSES AGAINST RSA

AB251250 Paris AFP in English 1138 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Text] Luanda, Feb 25 (AFP) -- The Namibian nationalist South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO) today claimed successes against occupying South African forces in an offensive launched two weeks ago. A SWAPO communique released here said that targets had been destroyed close to the Namibian capital of Windhoek. and daily clashes were occurring with South African troops. The offensive coincides with the rainy season in Namibia, giving SWAPO guerrillas cover from new foliage and unlimited water supplies.

Among the operations the communique listed were an attack on a military post at Okavane on February 12, which killed 23 South African soldiers and wounded many others, the sabotage of power lines the following day which cut off supplies from the Ruacana electric plant, and an ambush which killed nine South African troops and captured equipment.

On February 19, the communique said, guerrillas penetrated the white farming region of Okahandja, 60 kilometers north of Windhoek, and blew up a train carrying military material and fuel. An official of South African railways, Mike Nuybourg, had confirmed this last attack, the communique said.

The communique was issued the day after brief and inconclusive talks in Cape Verde between Angolan and South African representatives on a possible ceasefire in the area.

NAMIBIA

SWAPO GUERRILLAS ENTER COUNTRY FROM ANGOLA

AB251506 Paris AFP in English 1450 GMT 25 Feb 83

[By Denis Hiault]

[Text] Johannesburg, Feb. 25 (AFP) -- Part of a force of between 600 and 800 SWAPO guerrillas who entered Namibia from Angola 12 days ago were today believed to be within reach of their target: the territory's large white-settler farms. The operation has been costly for the Namibian nationalist fighters, however. The latest figures given by the South African-led security forces put the number of SWAPO (South-West Africa People's Organisation) dead at 129. A military spokesman in the Namibian capital Windhoek told AFP that despite intensive counter-operations, some of the SWAPO force could this weekend enter the central region between Tsumeb, Grootfontein and Otavia.

The white farmers of the region have been on a war footing for several days. The Army, which has supplied them with rifles, is keeping the settlers informed of the guerrillas' advance. The spokesman said that the bloodiest clashes of the latest offensive, considered the most important launched by SWAPO in its 16 years of struggle for Namibian independence, occurred in the first few days.

According to reports reaching here, 82 of the guerrilla force were killed in three engagements soon after entering Angola. The security forces say they have lost only three men. In a repeat of a tactic used last year, the main body of guerrillas appears to be trying to tie the army down in Ovamboland, in the north, while newly-trained and equipped commandos attempt to cross a "red line" south into the white farming area.

The commandos are said to have been trained in Eastern bloc countries and in Palestinian camps. An elite among this force are from a special unit code-named Volcano based 400 km (250 miles) north of the Namibia-Angola border near the Angolan town of Lubango, according to the South African-led forces. They are said to be capable of moving up to 70 km (about 44 miles) a day on foot, without using roads, which have been rendered impassable for military vehicles with the current rainy season.

Last week, 36 black schoolchildren and their three teachers were kidnapped in Ovamboland with a view to being taken to Angola and there probably conscripted into the guerrillas' ranks, according to a local administration spokesman. But in a recent report banned by the authorities in Pretoria, the Roman Catholic Church said most of the Ovambo people -- Namibia's main ethnic group -- supported SWAPO's "army of liberation" rather than Pretoria's "army of occupation".

Before this week's resumption of direct talks in Cape Verde between South Africa and Angola in connection with the Namibian question, South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha said that the view of SWAPO -- left outside the talks -- was not indispensable to an accord between Luanda and Pretoria.

In a commentary today South African state radio said that SWAPO had thrown all its forces into battle in an "act of desperation". The radio said that if SWAPO fails in its present offensive, "it will have suffered a damaging setback in its efforts to seize power in SWA (South-West Africa, Namibia). "If it succeeds to any degree, the result will be a setback of similar proportions for the diplomatic initiative to achieve a peaceful settlement." Whatever the outcome, according to the radio, "the struggle is far from over".

SOUTH AFRICA

HUNDREDS REPORTED ARRESTED AT CAPE SQUATTER CAMP

MB251144 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Text] Hundreds of people have been arrested at the KTC squatter settlement in Guguletu near Cape Town. Beatty Hofmeyer is there:

[Hofmeyer] About (?35) vans surrounded the area at about 0930 this morning. Police and administration board officials arrested squatters and destroyed shacks. The police are still in the area, and squatters all expect to be arrested. About 17 vans filled with singing people have left already. According to the chief superintendent for the administration board in the area, [name indistinct], the squatters have been taken to the board's office in Langa to be screened.

ZAMBIA

KAUNDA FREES 18 HELD ON SUSPICION OF COUP PLOT

AB260645 Paris AFP in English 0428 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Text] Lusaka, Feb. 26 (AFP) -- Eighteen men detained in Zambia since October 1980 in connection with a foiled coup plot have been freed on the orders of President Kenneth Kaunda, senior state advocate Abdulaziz Kinariwala disclosed here Friday. They had been held under preservation of public security regulations.

Death sentences were passed in the case on seven other men in January after a 21-month trial. They included former Bank of Zambia Governor Valentine Musakanya and local lawyer Edward Schamwana, a former high court commissioner. They were found guilty of planning to kidnap President Kaunda, fly him to a remote area, and force him to resign.

ZIMBABWE

WIDESPREAD KILLING REPORTED IN MATABELELAND

AB251551 Paris AFP in English 1547 GMT 25 Feb 83

[By Andrew Meldrum]

[Text] Bulawayo, southwestern Zimbabwe, Feb 25 (AFP) -- First-hand accounts of widespread killings, beatings and rapes of civilians in rural parts of Matabeleland, north of here, are flooding into this city, the second most important in Zimbabwe. Among these eyewitness reports are acocunts of families forced into burning huts and shot if they try to escape, women beaten and stabbed in their sexual parts and schoolteachers beaten and shot to death before their students.

Although the government has denied victimizing peasant farmers and their families, reports from rural missions, schools and hospitals indicate that more than 1,000 people have been killed and many more beaten and tortured by the National Army in the past month. Particularly blamed is the Army's Fifth Brigade, which was sent to the area in mid-January to control sporadic violence from anti-government dissidents. The dissidents have killed about 100 people, kidnapped six foreign tourists and committed numerous robberies in the past year.

The dissidents are former guerrillas of opposition leader Joshua Nkomo's now-disbanded army. They are violently protesting the sacking last year of Mr. Nkomo from the Cabinet and the arrest of his top military aides for allegedly plotting against the government.

Several religious and independent relief organizations have submitted detailed but unpublished reports of alleged Army atrocities to Prime Minister Robert Mugabe and other members of government. They include the Catholic Commission of Justice and Peace which crusaded in the 1960's and 70's against human rights violations by Ian Smith's white-rule government. Anglican Bishop Robert Mercer has called for an internation inquiry by Amnesty International or the Red Cross into the Army's activities.

"It's just horrifying. Quite a good number of innocent people have been killed, raped and beaten, that is a fact," said one grim, white clergyman who recently visited several missions and submitted a report to the prime minister's office. "They (the government) already know, they know but they're denying it. This is not just some Army men. This must be the policy the government has chosen. We don't know what to do, how to stop it, he said.

A 32,000 sq km (about 12,500 sq miles) curfew area where the Army is operating is officially closed off to journalists. But people have fled to Bulawayo and across the border to Botswana to avoid the Army. They speak anonymously for fear of reprisals against their families, schools or hospitals. In a hospital bed lies one of the victims of the violence in Matabeleland, a frightened 13-year-old girl. She has gunshot wounds in her shoulder and both arms and burns over her back and legs. Through an interpreter she said that early on February 13 her family was brewing beer at their huts in the Lupane area, northwest of Bulawayo, when four soliders came from a nearby camp of six truck-loads of troops. "They asked for dissidents, we couldn't say anything, we didn't know anything." She said her family of eight was put in two huts which were then set on fire. The soldiers fired "hundreds of shots" into the huts and shot anyone who ran out, she said. Two ran out of her hut and were killed.

"I finally rolled out an pretended to be dead, not breathing, in case I was shot," the girl said. Seven in her family died; she was the only survivor.

As she escaped from the area she saw other families had been treated the same way. "I would find other villages burning. I would meet people who told similar stories... because we couldn't give information about the dissidents." Testimonies from throughout the curfew area say that the Army men carry lists of rural officials of Mr Nkomo's opposition party and other community leaders such as school teachers. These people aided black nationalist guerrillas during the civil war in the 1970's to end the white minority-rule Rhodesian regime, and it appears that support system is operating again for the dissidents. The Army actions are therefore intended to wipe out that network and impress the general population not to aid the anti-government rebels.

Government ministers have said only dissidents and their collaborators are being killed. Minister of State Sydney Sekemayi told Parliament only "probably a few innocents may get killed" during Army operations. Cabinet Minister Enos Nkala recently spoke in the affected area, saying "we are hammering the dissidents and they are dying like dogs. Unfortunately, where two elephants meet, it is the grass that suffers and many people, some of them innocent, are being affected by the operation." Mr Nkala threatened to stop food relief to areas that supported dissidents, and it has been reported that supplies of the staple maize meal have been cut off from Totsholotsho, for instance. After a drought of two years the local suppliers of maize are very short.

A 40-year-old schoolteacher at Nemane school, west of Bulawayo, said that on January 31 about 15 Army men came to the village. "They had a paper with names on it, but only one person was present, Samuel Moyo, the ZAPU local chairman," the teacher said. They took him and shot him in front of the toilets. Then they picked eight men from us at random. The men had to lie down and they were badly beaten with clubs, rifle butts and sometimes pierced with bayonets. One of the beaten was told to sit on a brick and then a soldier shot him from about 10 feet away." The soldiers repeated the sequence three more times, beating a total of 32 men and killing four of them, said the teacher. "They said everybody in the area had supported dissidents," he said. "This is really worse than the war. You have no chance to explain your case. Now it seems they just slaughter at random."

Most of the accounts told of armed men in camouflage uniforms, wearing red berets, identifying them as members of the Fifth Brigade, the North Korean-trained unit made up primarily of Shona speaking men loyal to Prime Minsiter Robert Mugabe's majority party. Such reports of atrocities by the Fifth Brigade against the country's 20 percent minority Ndebele-speaking people who generally support Mr Nkomo indicate political and tribal motivations by the Army.

Rural medical workers, who say their facilities are "full up," complain that the Army will not let them transfer shot or beaten victims to city hospitals. "They search the ambulances to make sure we don't send people with gunshot wounds. They don't want people to know," said a rural nurse. She also complained that Army men "stole away" patients who had survived shootings. She herself fled the area when the Army came to her hospital with a list of personnel they wanted to take away "for interrogation." When doctors complained to police and government health officials they were told there was nothing that could be done about the Army operations.

In another medical clinic two schoolteachers told of being stripped by Army men and being whipped until they were unconscious. [words indistinct] one had to open her legs and he whipped "because they said that was my main use to the dissidents." In the same ward was a woman whose breasts were badly burned because she said her dress had been set on fire by Army men. Another woman told how she was burned when flaming dress was held to her face.

The doctor of the clinic counted 110 dead from Army brutality in a 20 kilometre radius in the past three weeks. But even the overwhelming scale of the Army's operations has not ended the dissidents' activities. Last week there were three incidents of gunfire on government vehicles along the main Victoria Falls-Bulawayo Road, killing at least one government employee, according to the official government news agency.

"This is not a solution because violence breeds violence, hatred, bitterness and revenge," said a clergyman. "This is no solution. It will only make things worse."

Official: Situation 'Distorted'

AB260807 Paris AFP in English 0751 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Text] Harare, Feb. 26 (AFP) -- The security situation in Zimbabwe's southwestern Matabeleland Province has been "greatly distorted" by the international press, the government's Information Director Justin Nyoka said Friday in a statement carried by the official news agency ZIANA. Speaking from the provincial capital city of Bulawayo, Mr Nyoka said that he had investigaged reports of alleged atrocities by the Army's Fifth Brigade and had found that the unit was not responsible. He said harassment of villagers had been carried out by deserters wearing Army uniforms, ZIANA reported.

Mr Nyoka said he had spent three days in the region, visiting the towns of Gwanda and Kezi in Matabeleland South.

The latest reports of the slaying of some 1,000 civilians have come from Matabeleland North, which is under Army curfew. Mr Nyoka said he planned to go there. Commenting on reports that villagers were fleeing from rural areas because of harassment by the Fifth Brigade, Mr Nyoka said he had found that they were leaving because of drought.

MUGABE: NKOMO ALIGNED WITH SOUTH AFRICA

AB261153 Paris AFP in English 1132 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Text] Harare, Feb. 26 (AFP) -- Prime Minister Robert Mugabe has accused opposition leader Joshua Nkomo of seeking "active" South African support to overthrow his government. In his strongest attack so far on Mr Nkomo, his rival for 20 years, Mr Mugabe said that it was to the "undying shame" of Mr Nkomo and his ZAPU party that they had sought "the active support of South Africa in order to cause chaos in the country and so attempt to bring down the people's government." The prime minister launched his attack yesterday at a passing out parade for military instructors trained by North Korean advisers.

Mr Mugabe accused Mr. Nkomo of directing the country's anti-government dissidents and said that in the past few days the government had found out more about a positive link between South Africa's external threats to Zimbabwe and the internal threat from the dissidents. "Because ZAPU in its desperation is resorting to South Africa for military support, we must forever maintain our vigiliance and stay permanently ready to defend our hard-won independence," said Mr. Mugabe. No details of the South African link to Mr. Nkomo were given. Mr. Nkomo has previously denied the government's accusations that he is linked to South Africa as "cheap politics" and he has also denied that he or his party have control over the anti-government dissidents.

Mr Nkomo, whose ZIPRA guerrilla forces operated independently of Mr Mugabe's troops during the long pre-independence war against white minority rule, was briefly minister without portfolio in the reconciliation government formed at independence. The prime minister dismissed him from the Cabinet a year ago after arms caches were found on ZAPU property. Mr Mugabe alleged then that Mr Nkomo had sought meetings with South African officials with the aim of ousting his government. However, diplomats here point out that Mr. Nkomo's ZAPU party is one of the staunchest supporters of the banned African National Congress (ANC), which in turn is seen by South Africa as its main unsurgent threat.

Last weekend Mr. Nkomo was prevented from leaving for a trip to Czechoslovakia, and Minister of State for Security Emmerson Munangagwa charged that Mr. Nkomo had been planning to address a press conference in South Africa, presumably about the alleged mass killings of civilians by the Zimbabwean Army in the southwest of the country.

DPRK To Train Militia

MB251712 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, says the Zimbabwe African People's Union [ZAPU] and the Pretoria regime have entered into a military alliance to overthrow the people's government in Zimbabwe. Reviewing a pass-out parade of about 800 militia instructors at Paradise Camp, east of Bindura today, Comrade Mugabe said the government is fully aware of a positive link between the external threat from South Africa and the internal activities of Joshua Nkomo's dissidents.

The prime minister warned that Zimbabweans would not permit the ZAPU leader and his rebels to regain the gains of the revolution. He said the government is carrying out military training programs on an intensive and extensive scale so that the people can defend their hard-won independence effectively.

The prime minister told the instructors that it is now their separate duty to train thousands of militia so that they can complement the police and the National Army in maintaining law and order. Comrade Mugabe appealed to the nation to maintain and heighten vigilance all the time so that both internal and external enemies are identified and routed out. Comrade Mugabe said the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will train the militia in person in a 4-month course involving weapons handling, drill, and discipline.

Zimbabwean Troops in Mozambique

LD260838 Johannesburg International Service in English 0300 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Text] The prime minister of Zimbabwe, Mr Robert Mugabe says 17 Zimbabwean soldiers stationed in Mozambique to guard the fuel pipeline between Beira and Mutare have deserted. Mr Mugabe has told a rally near Harare that 12 of the deserters, all former members of the ZIPRA guerrilla forces of opposition leader Mr Joshua Nkomo, have been captured. Mr Mugabe's statement is the first high-level confirmation that Zimbabwean soldiers are stationed in Mozambique and comes about 3 months after they were sent to guard the pipeline.

He also accuses Mr Nkomo of seeking military support to cause chaos in Zimbabwe and overthrow the government. He said that for this reason, Zimbabwe had to speed up its military arrangements in all parts of the country. In one of his worst attacks on Mr Nkomo, Mr Mugabe described the opposition leader as an utterly dishonest and opportunistic man.

FAMILIES OF TWO KIDNAPPED TOURISTS CONTACTED

AB270847 Paris AFP in English 0832 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] Harare, Feb. 27 (AFP) -- Two replies have been received to an appeal for information by the families of the six foreign tourists kidnapped in southwestern Zimbabwe last July, the SUNDAY MAIL newspaper reported today. Both replies to the families' appeal for news about their sons were anonymous, but one appeared to contain accurate descriptions of the missing six, the paper quoted a spokesman for the families as saying.

When the six -- two Americans, two Britons and two Australians -- were abducted on the Victoria Falls-Bulawayo main road, a ransom note demanded the release of top military aides of opposition leader Joshua Nkomo.

The families last month placed full-page advertisements in Zimbabwe's newspapers saying that in return for the release of their sons they would pay for the legal defences of the commanders of Mr Nkomo's former guerrilla army commanders, who are on trial for treason. The six were kidnapped by anti-government dissidents who have been operating in southwestern Zimbabwe for the past year to protest the sacking of Mr Nkomo from the Cabinet and the arrest of the military men. The dissidents are blamed for the deaths of about 100 people and the Army is currently making a widescale sweep through the rural areas between Bulawayo and Victoria Falls in an operation against the former guerrillas.